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Islamic Affairs

Weekly Blames Saudi Arabia for Conflict in Yemen

LD1705200594 Tehran IRNA in English 1948 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—A weekly specialising in Middle East affairs has blamed Saudi Arabia for the ongoing bloodbath in Yemen which has claimed thousands of lives.

"But in the way of neutrality, stands Saudi Arabia who still is out to get even with Sanaa for backing Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. At that time Saudi Arabia retaliated with the expulsion of hundreds of thousands Yemeni workers, crippling the poorest Arab state's economy," said the MIDDLE EAST TIMES in its Monday [16 May] issue in Cairo.

"But now Egyptian observers say that Saudi Arabia seeks to partition Yemen as compensation for Yemen's attempts to severe Saudi-led Arab unity.

North Yemen sources also speculate that "Saudi Arabia's defense minister dashed back home to save the south from Sanaa's jaws and prolong the prospects of war," said the English-language weekly in its cover story.

"Both Saudi Arabia and Western powers have backed the south enclave's call for outside intervention which they deem a lifeline able to halt the north's march on Aden dead in its tracks," it noted.

The weekly said that since Saudi Arabia's rapprochement with the regime of Hosni Mubarak, Egyptian Islamists view the Saudi Kingdom as a "traitor to their Koranic cause."

"Nor are they surprised that Saudi Arabia has thrown in its lot with the former socialists of the south, now that Egypt's Marxists such as Albert Farag and Lutfi Kholi have been reported hob-nobbing with Saudi princes," said the weekly.

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 11 May

NC1705205494

[Editorial report] The following review of the 11 May issue of Cairo AL-NUR summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Death of a Lawyer
2. Dish Antennas
3. Fatwas, Veil Controversies
4. Al-Azhar Schools
5. Ban on Author's Writings Urged
6. Al-Azhar Role in Licensing Artistic Productions
7. Opinion on Terrorism
8. Islamic Council Official Discusses Muslim Ills
9. Muslims Worldwide

DEATH OF LAWYER

The 11 May issue of AL-NUR leads off with a 1,500-word editorial on page 1 by chairman al-Hamzah Di'bis commenting on the death in police custody of lawyer 'Abd-al-Haris Madani following his arrest on 26 April 1994. The editorial has the following Koranic verse as its headline: "In the Law of Equality There Is Saving of Life to You, O Ye Men of Understanding That Ye May Restrain Yourselves." This verse refers to the death penalty that Di'bis urges against "the killer of lawyer 'Abd-al-Haris Madani."

The editorial extols the lawyer's profession as "defending righteousness and righteous people and jihad against injustice and unjust people" and defends the integrity of Egyptian lawyers. It goes on to mention the Egyptian Human Rights Committee's suspicions that Madani was tortured while in custody, despite official denials. Di'bis praises the late President Anwar al-Sadat for ordering a stop to all torture and regrets the return of this practice after his death. He urges President Husni Mubarak to issue a similar order and reminds him that torture is contrary to human rights principles and the teachings of Islam. He then calls for the resignation or dismissal of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's government because of the incident.

DISH ANTENNAS

The second major item on page 1 is a four-column report by "AL-NUR's artistic editor" extolling the Saudi Arabian Government's decision to ban the private use of satellite dish antennas in order to avert the danger that foreign broadcasts pose to that Islamic nation.

The writer exhorts Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi to follow suit but sees little chance that he will do so. He praises Damietta Governor Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahim for banning satellite dishes in his Governorate and blames AKHBAR AL-YAWM's chairman and chief editor Ibrahim Sa'dah for criticizing the governor's move. The report criticizes the secular magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF for accusing Saudi Arabia of buying off Egyptian journalists.

A 200-word box on page 3 carries the Saudi mufti's fatwa banning dish antennas.

FATWAS, VEIL CONTROVERSIES

A 300-word item on page 1 reports on an ongoing lawsuit between Egypt's mufti Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi on one side and two al-Azhar academics and AL-NUR's chief editor 'Ali Faruq on the other. The mufti is accusing Faruq, Professor Shaban Muhammad Isma'il, head of al-Azhar's Shari'ah Department, and Dr. 'Ali al-Salus, professor of Jurisprudence at Qatar University, of slandering him in articles commenting on his fatwas on banking transactions, the importation of alcoholic beverages for non-Muslims, and opening gambling houses for tourists.

The court action continues.

Another 300-word report on page 1 says that the State Council's Administrative Judicial Court has ruled in favor of school and university female students who wish to wear the veil, contingent on their submission to identity checks by female security personnel.

A shorter one-column report next to this article indicates that the Education Ministry has ordered all school students to wear the school uniform and remove the veil. The report says some female students are not complying and are not going to school.

AL-AZHAR SCHOOLS

A 3,500-word report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi on page 3 discusses the plight of elementary and secondary students in al-Azhar institutions—schools controlled by al-Azhar and leading to higher education at al-Azhar University. Various al-Azhar academics and administrators say the students' heavy workload, involving religious studies and learning the Koran by heart in addition to the secular curricula set by the Education Ministry, causes high rates of failure and produces students who do not know good Arabic. Some educators and administrators say that learning the Koran by heart should be left to secondary school and university students but AL-NUR disputes this and says it is easier for young children to learn the entire Koran. The paper urges further state assistance to al-Azhar institutions to help overcome the problem.

BAN ON AUTHOR'S WRITINGS URGED

On page 3, 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Zaqqani reviews a book entitled "A Critique of Dr. Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd's Aspersions." The book, penned by Professor Isma'il Salim, includes contributions by several Al- Azhar academics, who dispute Nasr Abu-Zayd's views on the text of the Koran. They call for banning the two books in which Abu-Zayd expounds his view that the Koran was a product of its era's culture and calls for liberating Muslim minds from slavery to religious texts. They say the two books should be withdrawn from circulation to Cairo University students.

One essay included in "A Critique of Dr. Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd's Aspersions" is written by Dr. Mahmud Mazru'ah, former dean of al- Minufiyah's School of Religious Disciplines and the Islamic Call; Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Hawwas, assistant professor of comparative jurisprudence at al-Azhar University; and two other Islamic academics. The essay declares that the authors are not accusing Abu-Zayd of apostasy but are urging him to reconsider his "dangerous excesses" and "correct his errors."

AL-AZHAR ROLE IN LICENSING ARTISTIC PRODUCTIONS

On page 6 AL-NUR carries the 4,500-word "text" of the fatwa issued by the General Assembly of the State Council's Fatwa and Legislation Department pertaining to the issue of whether the Culture Ministry or al-Azhar has authority to license or ban artistic audiovisual material. The fatwa, dated 10 February 1994, is in the form of a letter to the al-Azhar shaykh and is a response to an inquiry he sent to the above department on 10 July 1993. After outlining the pertinent constitutional provisions and laws issued over the years in Egypt in connection with the dissemination of the material in question, the fatwa concludes that the Culture Ministry is the body authorized to license or ban artistic audiovisual material when no question of Islamic content arises. It notes, however, that when the material to be disseminated has an Islamic aspect, al-Azhar has a "binding opinion on the Culture Ministry" in connection with issuing or withholding a license for such artistic audiovisual material.

OPINION ON TERRORISM

In the opinion section on page 5, a 600-word article by Hasan Mukhtar Baghdadi, a pharmacist, says Israeli intelligence services are behind terrorist acts in Egypt. They choose as perpetrators of these acts people with weak characters and no jobs. To fight unemployment, he urges the government to collect an alms tax, confiscate the wealth of "drug traffickers, low-quality art merchants, bribe takers, and thieves," and encourage the investment of Egyptian capital inside the country by offering tax breaks.

ISLAMIC COUNCIL OFFICIAL DISCUSSES MUSLIM ILLS

In a 2,000-word interview on page 4, Kamil al-Sharif, a Jordanian national who is secretary general of the International Islamic Council for Call and Relief, ascribes the current ills of the Muslim world, including backwardness in comparison with other countries, to the lack of Ijtihad in modern times—that is, drawing up codes of conduct based on Islamic precedent or analogies with Koranic and Sunnah teachings. He says Ijtihad was interrupted by centuries of foreign rule and as a result modern Muslims are now divided over many issues and do not have "a unified understanding or unified view of modern Islam". He blames traditions for attributing a lesser role to women than Islamic shari'ah actually gives them and calls for distinguishing between shari'ah itself and mere traditions.

He says many reformers are cautious about addressing this point to avoid accusations and suspicion because "there is also intellectual terrorism, even among Islamic groups." He warns that "erroneous applications" of Koranic or Sunnah texts leads to "ignorance, chaos, and fanaticism."

Al-Sharif says he believes women can do any job men do except fill the highest posts of authority. Referring to the important roles played by early Muslim women in war, nursing, and even Ijtihad, he supports working women and says that the best protection of their virtue comes from internal conviction.

MUSLIMS WORLDWIDE

AL-NUR publishes on page 2 a 2,000-word interview with the mufti of Singapore's Muslim minority. He notes the absence of religious persecution in that secular country and speaks of the Muslim community's efforts to upgrade the education of its children, improve its economic conditions, and build more houses of worship.

A 1,000-word report on page 2 is entitled "The Hardships of Muslims in India". It speaks briefly of "the Muslims' persecution by Hindus" who attempt to "exterminate or assimilate Kashmir's Muslims." The rest of the report speaks disapprovingly of various other religious beliefs and practices in India.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Remarks on Jihad, Jerusalem Draw Reaction

Sha'th on Interpretation of Remarks

JN1805100994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO chairman, today said Yasir 'Arafat and other PLO leaders will arrive in the self-rule area in the Gaza Strip during the first half of next month.

In a telephone interview from Cairo with our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, Dr. Sha'th said reports received from the Gaza Strip and Jericho show things are going very well. The same applies to the reports he received from Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli negotiations team, he added.

Asked about 'Arafat's statements in Johannesburg, in which he called for jihad to liberate Jerusalem, Dr. Sha'th said there are things which are sometimes interpreted in an exaggerated manner.

Dr. Sha'th said the PLO decided to form the Palestinian authority at this stage from those who have already been chosen until the other members of this authority are named. He added that negotiations on the transfer of powers to the Palestinians in the rest of the West Bank will begin after the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

Further on Sha'th Explanation

JN1805111494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1005 GMT 18 May 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Sa'id Mu'addi in Cairo on 18 May from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mu'addi] One last question, Dr. Nabil. Yasir 'Arafat's statements in Johannesburg drew angry reactions from the political leadership in Jerusalem, particularly the prime minister. What is your comment?

[Sha'th] My comment is that there is sometimes exaggeration, even in interpreting what President 'Arafat meant. Jihad in Islam is dual—minor and major jihad. When Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, conquered Mecca, he said: Minor jihad is now over and major jihad begins. The major jihad is the jihad of soul, work, construction, and all forms of struggle, not only the military jihad as, I believe, was understood in various places. Jihad for Jerusalem means struggle for the sake of insistence on presenting what we demand, that is, to have East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state. However, this will take place through various forms of peaceful struggle that will end with negotiations on the final status, an important part of which should be on Jerusalem. Our position on these negotiations is clear right now. This, I think, is what President 'Arafat meant.

[Mu'addi] One question, after the last, doctor. Was there a letter from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to Yasir 'Arafat on the status of Jerusalem?

[Sha'th] The letter Prime Minister Rabin exchanged with President 'Arafat, which was signed with the agreement as you may recall, stated that negotiations on the final status can begin as soon as possible but not after the beginning of the third year or the end of the second year after the start of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. This means not later than 13 October 1995, namely, after one year and four or five months. These negotiations on the final status, as is clear in the Declaration of Principles, emphasize that Jerusalem is one of the five most important topics that will be discussed at these final negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the Palestinian National Authority, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

PLO Official, Israeli Envoy Comment

LD1705205494 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 1600 GMT 17 May 94

[Excerpts] It is emerging one week later that 'Arafat has made an appeal for the jihad to continue until Jerusalem is liberated. This took place in Johannesburg, at the time of Mandela's swearing-in ceremony, behind closed doors in a mosque. The Palestinian leader—in English—asked South Africa's Muslim community to participate in the jihad—the holy war—to liberate the city. 'Arafat has given assurances that the struggle will continue. More details from Tiago Rebelo:

[Rebelo] The Palestinian leader delivered the speech at a mosque—with no journalists present—but a recording of his words reached the South African Jewish community and the Israeli radio:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] The jihad will continue. And Jerusalem is not for the Palestinian people [as heard]. [end recording]

[Rebelo] That is 'Arafat saying that the jihad will continue, because Jerusalem belongs to all Muslims and is more important than anything else the Palestinians have already got out of the Israelis. It was a public appeal by 'Arafat that, had it been made before the signing of the Cairo accords, could have been a reason for the Palestinian autonomy process to be stopped. The PLO leader is now making this appeal for Arab mobilization, because, as he stated, the main Palestinian battle concerns precisely Jerusalem, the most important Muslim holy place. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] We have the PLO representative live on the telephone. Good afternoon Dr. Isam Bisusu. We have now heard for the first time—at least in Portugal—'Arafat's appeal. Is this a PLO counterattack?

[Bisusu] First, I want to confirm that President 'Arafat's political line, as well as that of the PLO in general, is precisely the one that was reported in the Declaration of Principles in Washington and signed in Cairo on 4 May. Therefore, I want to confirm again that 'Arafat, during the years of war against Israel, never made an appeal for a jihad; he never appealed for a jihad. This is because the PLO declaration, the PLO principles, are very clear about the international solidarity under which all Muslims, Jewish people, and Christians have a claim over Jerusalem.

[Announcer] Does that mean that jihad does not mean holy war?

[Bisusu] Holy war is a totally different thing that appeals to all Muslims all over the world to fight against the Christians and the Jews and is a totally different thing. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] We also have live on the telephone the Israeli Ambassador in Lisbon Binyamin Oron. Good afternoon. What is your reaction to 'Arafat's statement?

[Oron] Good afternoon. I would like to correct a small detail mentioned in your conversation: Jerusalem is not the main Muslim holy city, it is the third most holy city following Mecca and Medina.

[Announcer] Is it not the main holy city in Israel?

[Oron] It may be so, but it may be so for the Jews and not for the Muslims. That is a correction I wanted to make before I can add anything else.

[Announcer] Can you then comment on 'Arafat's appeal?

[Oron] Well, I heard the speech by the PLO president, Mr. 'Arafat. I have not heard it completely, I only heard the bit you have broadcasted. If in reality those things were stated, I believe it is a serious statement.

[Announcer] Do you believe it is a threat to the climate of negotiations?

[Oron] Well, I believe that all the process is based on a mutual compromise, in the exchange of documents that preceeded the signing of the statement of principles which stated all the differences and conflicts would be decided or discussed through negotiations and in a peaceful manner.

[Announcer] Let me clarify a concept: Is jihad for you not a holy war different from the way Dr. Bisusu has interpreted it?

[Oron] I believe that people from the east have different interpretations. I do not want to debate academic interpretations. It is natural that the connotation of jihad is a negative one; it is not one of negotiation and compromise. It has a negative connotation although orientalists interpret it in different ways.

[Announcer] To end our conversation, could you tell us briefly about the statement made in Israel by the government?

[Oron] Well, the government, the prime minister, stated that if in reality those statements were made, there would be a question mark over the process. They are serious statements, and we would have to read the whole text to have a more official reaction.

[Announcer] Many thanks ambassador. Let us go back to Dr. Bisusu to have a final comment on the words of the Israeli ambassador in Lisbon:

[Bisusu] I believe that both sides, the Palestinians and Israelis, have made declarations of principles in Washington and Cairo. I believe the Palestinians and Israelis have an interest in following what was signed in those countries—Egypt and the United States. As far as we are concerned, the war is over. The most important route is that of peace, and we are going to continue following this route. The Isreali occupation is over in part of Palestine—Jericho and Gaza—and this occupation ended with peace negotiations and not with military action. Therefore we must continue the peace negotiations that have been carried over the past seven months. [passage omitted]

Council Member 'Astonished' at Remarks

TA1805074894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the National Authority, by Itay Engel; place not given—live, in English]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Engel] Dr. al-Agha, can we ask you to relate to the statement of Chairman 'Arafat in Johannesburg? The person who is in charge of the Palestinian side in this peace agreement talks about the need for the continuation of the jihad against the State of Israel.

[Al-Agha] I think when we started this peace process, we started the negotiations. Indeed, I am astonished about what is said in the broadcast about this, and indeed I didn't hear this statement. I have no official thought about this, so I would have to ask my chairman to understand what happened about this.

[Engel] I see. And if he says to you that indeed, he said and talked about the idea of the jihad, so you are going to implement now the idea of jihad, or you are going to continue with the peace process?

[Al-Agha] No, no, maybe the head means not only the armed struggle, but also any other means, like negotiations, like other. I don't think—I am sure that Mr. 'Arafat doesn't mean what happened.

Abu-Zayyad Warns of Jerusalem 'Time Bomb'

AU1805125994 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 18 May 94 p 3

[Interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Palestinian negotiator in the peace talks, by Brigitte Voykowitsch; place and date not given: "'Jerusalem is a Time Bomb, Because the Israelis Are Lacking in Sensitivity'"]

[Text] [Voykowitsch] Even moderate Palestinians are skeptical about the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Is the treaty that bad?

[Abu-Zayyad] The texts of the treaty themselves are not bad. There are too many restrictions of Palestinian authority. But those supporting the agreement have stressed that this is the first time that representatives of the Zionist ideology have accepted a withdrawal. Palestinians have always considered Zionist ideology as being expansionist. And this is the first time that Palestinians have part of the authority.

[Voykowitsch] What danger comes from the opponents of the agreement, the radicals, such as Hamas, and the groups in Damascus?

[Abu-Zayyad] A number of unfair conditions have been imposed on the Palestinians in the peace process, starting with regulations determining which Palestinians shall be allowed to negotiate. This has resulted in many Palestinians feeling that the process as such is unfair, and thus any outcome is unfair.

These critics will have a control function in the process. They will make sure that the negotiators do not make too many concessions and keep the interests and requirements of their people in mind.

[Voykowitsch] Does this mean that even the role of the Hamas and the radical Palestinian groups in Damascus is a constructive one?

[Abu-Zayyad] These groups are not opposed to peace, they have a supervisory role. They will not seek confrontation with the Palestinian police or the self-rule authorities.

[Voykowitsch] The refugee problem is still unsolved.

[Abu-Zayyad] We have to distinguish three groups of refugees: those of 1948, those of 1967, and those who left the territories with Israeli permission and were not allowed to return. The latter two—that is nearly 800,000 people—must be allowed to return immediately. Israel has no excuse for preventing this.

The refugees of 1948 (who left regions that are Israeli territory today) have a basic right to return. We do, however, understand that Israel wants to remain a Jewish state and will, therefore, not allow these refugees to come back as this would mean losing the Jewish majority. We must base our negotiations on UN Resolution 194, which speaks of return or compensation.

[Voykowitsch] Jerusalem is not on the official agenda before the second part of the peace process starts. But there are unofficial forums. What is the state of talks?

[Abu-Zayyad] The Israelis annexed East Jerusalem in 1967. But for years they have been establishing new Jewish neighborhoods there and have built settlement belts around the city. This means they are changing their status, although UN resolutions demand that the status quo be maintained.

The Israelis must be aware of this: No Palestinian, no Arab, no Islamic leader will conclude a comprehensive peace with Israel unless the Jerusalem question has been settled.

[Voykowitsch] How are talks proceeding at the moment?

[Abu-Zayyad] At the first meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin we brought up the East Jerusalem topic. On Rabin's suggestion a committee was formed, with each side delegating two representatives. I was one of them. But two months ago, the Israelis broke everything off.

This means that the old regulations that were introduced by the Israelis last year apply. Under these, every Arab wanting to got to East Jerusalem from the territories needs a kind of visa. This way they are killing off our institutions in the city.

Jerusalem is a time bomb, because the Israelis are lacking in sensitivity. They never think about the importance that the city has for Christians and Muslims. I can only hope that they will remember this in time. Otherwise there will be an explosion. For, whatever agreements we conclude, unless we can protect the rights of the Arabs in East Jerusalem, everything will collapse.

Members of Self-Rule Authority View Future Tasks

JN1705171494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 May 94

[Report on interviews with Dr. Zakariya al-Agha and Lawyer Furayh Abu-Middayn, members of the Palestinian Self-Rule Authority, by Hasan Abu-Zayid "after

the signing of an agreement on transferring the civil administration's powers to the Palestinian Self-Rule Authority" on 17 May; place not given; from the "With the Events" program; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Al-Agha] ... according to the Cairo agreement, signed on 4 May 1994 between the PLO and the Israeli Government on transferring all powers and responsibilities from the Israeli authority to the Palestinian authority, and following continuous and comprehensive meetings held by the Civil Liaison Committee of the Palestinian and Israeli sides. During these meetings, the conferees discussed, scrutinized, and reviewed all issues pertaining to all civil departments. A few moments ago, a protocol on the handover of powers was officially signed by the two sides. From this moment on, the Palestinian authority will completely assume its powers in accordance with the Palestinian regulations and laws.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha: When will the Palestinian authority begin its work?

[Al-Agha] This will take place once the formation of the Palestinian authority is finalized, and once the brothers from outside and inside the territories assume the tasks. I believe that, after 25 May, it will be possible for the Palestinian authority's council to begin work.

[Abu-Zayid] Until this takes place, and from now until 25 May, who will run the affairs of residents in the territories?

[Al-Agha] The departments will continue their work. We, the representatives of the Palestinian authority; namely, myself, brother Furayh [Abu-Middayn], and brother Dr. Riyad [not further identified], will begin our missions and carry out this work until the Palestinian authority is finalized and until it assumes work. [end recording]

With regard to the issues which the Palestinian authority will address first, Lawyer Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the Palestinian Authority Council, says:

[Begin Abu-Middayn recording] The first priority will be given to the daily life of all residents. There are such problems as travel abroad as well as students' problems, which I believe were solved today with General Rothchild. Perhaps, the first step in this work would be to issue permits to West Bank university students. In fact, daily life will continue. We also give priority to organizational affairs [words indistinct] because this would be a basis for us. As you know, there were resignations from police ranks and there are no civil courts. This may be the first department in which we will begin orderly and intensive work. [end recording]

Authority Secretary, Intelligence Chief Named

NC1805114794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 18 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has appointed al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the current Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, as secretary general of the Palestinian national authority with the rank of minister.

The agency also learned that 'Arafat has decided to appoint Hakam Bal'awi, the Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia, as director general of the Palestinian general intelligence.

'Abd-al-Rahim and Bal'awi are both members of the central committee of the 'Arafat-led Fatah Movement, the major PLO faction.

Security Officials Arrive in Territories

TA1705191194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew

[Excerpt] Muhammad Dahlan and Jibril al-Rujjub arrived this evening in the territories. They will head the security apparatus in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Dahlan, one of the founders of the Fatah Hawks in Gaza, fled the territories and headed the Gaza Committee in Tunis. Rujjub, 42, who headed the West Bank Committee in Tunis, arrived from Jordan and will head the security apparatus in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Security Command Issues First Declaration

NC1705164094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Rafah, 17 May (MENA)—The Palestinian General Security Command issued its first declaration to the Palestinian people today, on the eve of the Palestinian police's assumption of their full powers in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

The declaration specifies the duties of the Palestinian police as the maintenance of security and public order and ensuring peace and safety for all Palestinians within a framework of democracy, political pluralism, and the rule of law.

The declaration announces that schools and hospitals have been reopened and that various government institutions have begun to function.

The declaration calls on the Palestinian people to cooperate with the police to begin a new era and build a Palestinian state.

One hundred and seventy-six Palestinian police cars, sent by the United States to Port Said a few days ago, crossed at the Rafah border point today.

Meanwhile Israeli troops are preparing to evacuate all Gaza areas by tomorrow evening. Later today the Palestinians and Israelis will sign an official agreement transferring power to the Palestinian Authority as of Thursday [19 May]. The agreement specifies 38 different powers for the new Palestinian Authority.

An official of the Palestinian Authority confirmed that the Israeli Army will complete its withdrawal from Gaza

on schedule and not one Israeli will remain inside the Palestinian autonomy areas by Thursday morning.

The Israeli Army placed Arabic, Hebrew, and English signs on major roads and areas saying: "Attention. You are entering the Palestinian Authority area. Entry must be coordinated with the Israeli Army."

The Palestinian Authority in Gaza has begun to establish a system for data processing and statistical programs. The venture is carried out by a Palestinian-Egyptian company based in Cairo. Engineer 'Ali Nabil Sha'th, the company's representative, said that the company has opened branches in Gaza and Jerusalem and that a number of Palestinian young people have been trained in the use of the data processing equipment, which has been reprogrammed to meet the needs of the Palestinian administration.

Al-Husayni Cited on Talks With Christopher

JN1705205494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 May 95

[Telephone interview With Faysal al-Husayni, member of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho, by Kamal Tarabayh on 17 May; place not given; from the "Today's Guest" program—recorded]

[Text] [Tarabayh] In Jericho, which is now under the Palestinian Authority, you have received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. How do you evaluate the visit by a foreign minister of a superpower to the Palestinian autonomous area?

[Al-Husayni] In fact this visit has been allocated to the Palestinians within the agenda of the Syrian-Israeli track. Perhaps it is symbolic more than anything else. One meeting has already been held in Jericho and the other will be held tomorrow morning in East Jerusalem.

Concerning Jericho, it is obvious that the Americans want to be the first from outside the region to start official visits to Jericho. During the meeting, several questions were raised on the reality in which we are living after the Israeli withdrawal, in terms of needs and preparedness of the Palestinian forces. They informed us that certain assistance will be extended, either to the self-government in the future or to certain areas, such as Gaza in particular.

[Tarabayh] On the political level, what were the topics you discussed with Christopher?

[Al-Husayni] In fact the talks centered mainly on the issue of Jerusalem, the settlement activities, the Israeli practices. We also stressed the importance of starting negotiations on the final status [of the occupied territories] as soon as possible.

[Tarabayh] It was observed that when the self-rule agreement was signed in Cairo, you openly expressed your apprehensions—and this is not the first time—on the fate of Jerusalem. Do these apprehensions still exist?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, we voiced apprehensions but we did not do anything and we did not take the appropriate measures. Perhaps we will lose Jerusalem. We must wage the battle for Jerusalem in order to present a new Palestinian fait accompli in the face of the Israeli fait accompli. The Israelis are trying to decide the issue of Jerusalem in their favor.

[Tarabayh] Does this mean that you consider that the self-rule agreement signed in Cairo ignored the issue of Jerusalem or failed to provide a solution for Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] We wished that the agreement had been preceded by an Israeli commitment to lifting the isolation of the city of Jerusalem.

[Tarabayh] In your opinion, why did the Palestinian side not insist on this issue?

[Al-Husayni] Let me say that at certain times the Israelis warned that there were certain demands which, if openly demanded, they could not meet, but if they were left to them, they might meet them in a calm manner. Perhaps there was a sort of understanding. I hope that it will happen in this way and Israel will lift the isolation of Jerusalem gradually and without great clamor in the media. However, up until now, we have not seen anything in this direction.

[Tarabayh] It was circulated that the name of Faysal al-Husayni was included in the list of members who would form the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in Gaza and the Strip [as heard]. Will you participate in this authority?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. Despite all reservations, this agreement was signed, and became an accomplished fact. We should deal with this fact, not only in the sense of precisely working to implement its articles literally, but also in the sense of dealing with it in order to promote it and fill the gaps in the text. We believe that through continued and collective work we can circumvent these obstacles.

[Tarabayh] It was said that you insisted on having the portfolio of Jerusalem affairs. Is this true?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. My condition was that I would accept any post given to me provided it would not keep me away from Jerusalem in terms of time or geography.

[Tarabayh] When will the membership of the PNA be completed?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that a few days after the 'Id holiday [approximately 21-24 May], the picture would be clear.

[Tarabayh] Will this authority be regarded as a government?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, it is a government.

[Tarabayh] In other words, can we address you by: Mr. Minister?

[Al-Husayni, laughing] This is premature.

[Tarabayh] How do you assess the current situation in the occupied Arab territories, particularly in light of the renewed clashes in Nabulus, Hebron, and other areas?

[Al-Husayni] The fact is that the Israelis began a partial withdrawal from specific areas in Gaza and Jericho. The Israeli Army, however, has not withdrawn from other areas, and the settlements have not been removed. Consequently, occupation has not ended. Thus, in the presence of occupation, such clashes and events will continue until the Israelis behave otherwise and until they actually show, as part of a very clear plan, that they really wish to withdraw completely from the occupied Palestinian territories and remove their settlements.

[Tarabayh] Are you reassured about the deployment of the Palestinian police in the self-rule area and about the citizens' welcome of this police force?

[Al-Husayni] The citizens' welcome has exceeded imagination, and, perhaps, went beyond the conceivable limit. The backing, love, support, and rallying around the Palestinian national security forces may even impede the work of these forces. However, this rejoicing may last for a few days, but, ultimately, matters should be organized, and this love should facilitate not only the policemen's needs, as is the case now, but also their field work on the street.

[Tarabayh] How do you view the future coexistence between the Palestinian factions opposed to the self-rule agreement and the Palestinian factions represented in the national authority?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that if we follow a democratic approach as well as the freedom of opinion and the rational dealing with matters, and if we also refrain from using physical or verbal violence, we can achieve much. We need this opposition. An opposition is important in any country. There is opposition in Israel, and it affects the government in certain domains. Thus, why should we not have similar opposition?

[Tarabayh] Are there contacts designed to coordinate positions among these factions on the ground in the territories?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, there are contacts. However, these contacts vary from one group to another.

[Tarabayh] Thank you, Faysal al-Husayni.

[Al-Husayni] You are welcome. Thank you.

Qaddumi Said To Assail Agreement in Fatah Meeting

JN1705183994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tunis—Informed Palestinian sources say that the Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Yasir 'Arafat yesterday heard a report by Faruq Qaddumi, the Fatah secretary general, in which he attacked the recent Cairo agreement between Israel and the PLO. The sources say that Qaddumi's attack was particularly directed at 'Arafat's agreement to concede the right of representation for the national authority abroad. The sources said that a number of the Fatah Movement's Central Committee members are unwilling to leave for Jericho and assume their duties within the so-called national authority. The source said that Faruq Qaddumi, Hani al-Hasan, Khalid al-Hasan, Muhammad Jihad, and Muhammad Ghunaym have refused to go to Jericho, especially since there are differences on coordinating work between the Fatah commands at home and abroad.

Gaza Mayor Views Post-Withdrawal Scene, Aid

NC1805064094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 May 94

[Interview with Gaza Mayor Dr. Zakariya Makki by Shadiyah Riyad; place and date not given]

[Text] [Riyad] Dr. Makki, with the departure of the last Israeli soldier from the self-rule areas in Gaza, what changes have taken place since the signing of the agreement and what changes do you expect to occur in the next few days?

[Makki] The departure of the Israeli occupation from Gaza or, to be more precise, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from densely populated areas ended a nightmare for the Palestinian people and spread rapture among Palestinians everywhere. A step has been taken toward building a foundation on which our Palestinian people may stand until they move toward establishing their free Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

The situation in the West Bank and Gaza is one of great jubilation. Most people were thrilled by the departure of the Israeli troops, who used to kill children, women, and youths and throw them in prison. Now Palestinian flags flutter over every house and children rejoice. But there is sadness for those heroic martyrs who fell during the eight years of the intifadah. We say to them: You died to give us a new lease of life. It is a new beginning and we hope it will be auspicious, God willing.

[Riyad] We certainly hope so. The self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho has considerable responsibility. Would you like to tell us about the situation in Gaza concerning the economy, education, and the infrastructure?

[Makki] For 27 years, Israel has been trying to link the occupied territories with Israel in the hope of integrating these areas into the Israeli territories. This policy left quite a scar on the infrastructure and the economy of Gaza and the West Bank. We need to rebuild the infrastructure in Gaza from scratch. This applies to electricity, water, sewage, and all public services. The Israelis left us with another serious problem. Over 70,000 Palestinians are jobless. The economy in the occupied territories is very bad and we need to think of a way to improve it.

[Riyad] During the signing ceremony of the Gaza-Jericho accord, President Mubarak called for political and financial support to promote the step. What is required now from all the parties concerned with this accord—the Arab states, European states, the cosponsors of the conference, and the United Nations?

[Makki] President Mubarak and the Egyptian people have always strongly supported the Palestinian people. We say that it is the duty of the brothers everywhere, be they Egyptians or Palestinians, to cooperate with each other. We focus on a very important thing, namely, that the states that support this peace must entrench it on the ground by strengthening the Palestinian economy. The European Union, the United States, the IMF, Russia, and the United Nations must support the Palestinian people, who need the prerequisites for establishing this authority on strong bases. Without a strong economy, the Palestinian people will face great problems. The Palestinian authority will face economic problems. It cannot solve these problems alone; it needs the help of the Arab countries. I appeal to all the Arab states and especially to all the Gulf states, the European states, and the United States to support the Palestinian people in their hardship and during this critical interim period.

[Riyad] What is the stance of the opponents of the self-rule accord in Gaza and Jericho and what is their reaction to the entry of the Palestinian police force to these two areas?

[Makki] The Palestinian people are very intelligent. The Palestinian opposition is a healthy and intelligent opposition. According to reliable information, they will receive the Palestinian police force with amity and appreciation. Palestinians might differ among each other ideologically but this does not conflict with the entry of the Palestinian force from among our sons, who will protect us and safeguard the property of the Palestinian people, individuals, and their lives. I believe that the opposition, in light of the statements it has issued, will not oppose; on the contrary, it will receive the Palestinian police force with an open heart.

[Riyad] Do you wish to address the Palestinian people on the birth of the first Palestinian entity?

[Makki] We tell our brothers the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that it is the duty of the Palestinians to unite in these difficult conditions and to support each other so that we can move from this step to build our independent Palestinian state. God willing, the capital of this state will be Jerusalem.

Spokesman: 'Zionist' Attacks Not To Go Unpunished

JN1705182294 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Following the crime perpetrated by Zionist settlers in Hebron yesterday, an official spokesman for the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, [dissident] has stated that what happened in Hebron yesterday was definite proof exposing the falsehoods that have been going on for some time, concerning the agreements that Yasir 'Arafat concluded with the Zionist enemy.

The spokesman added that what happened in Hebron yesterday also confirmed the extent of both 'Arafat's involvement and his standing in the Zionist enemy's trench. He asserted that our militant people will continue their intifadah and daily struggle and will not pay attention to the falsehoods and deception pursued by the 'Arafatist group regarding its agreements with the enemy. The Zionist attacks and massacres will not go unpunished, he said.

Nazzal on Hamas' Objections to Self-Rule Elections

PM1705150094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 May 94 p 6

[Ibrahim Humaydi report: "Nazzal: Continuation of Israeli Occupation Means That Our Military Operations Against It Will Not Cease"]

[Text] Damascus—Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Jordan, has stressed the movement's opposition to participation in the self-rule elections. He pointed out that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has no "real desire" to "establish democracy through the election principle and guaranteeing the opposition's right to perform their activities freely." He stressed that the continuation of the military operations of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, Hamas' military wing, "is linked to the presence of the occupation."

Nazzal told AL-HAYAH that the movement's position on the question of contesting the self-rule elections in October "is clear and declared. We are for legislative elections in which the people choose their leadership. As for the elections linked to the self-rule plan, our position is clear with regard to the refusal to participate in them." He accused those "calling for participation in the elections of marketing their political plans to justify their weak positions." He drew a distinction between administrative rule elections and "unionist, student, and municipal" elections. He said that "we are for participation in all these elections. The only exception is the administrative elections linked to the self-rule."

Nazzal said that "so far we have not sensed within the influential minority any real desire to establish democracy in Palestinian society through the election principle and guaranteeing the opposition's right to perform their activities freely." He added that "what we are witnessing in reality is exactly the opposite. The PLO leadership is against the election principle."

He added that "this leadership's commitment in its recent agreement with Israel to prevent verbal incitement by organizations or groups against the occupation authorities casts dark shadows on this leadership's method of dealing with its opponents in the stage ahead."

He was asked: Will you continue military action if you join the [Palestinian] authority? He replied: "That assumption is wrong. Who said we are going to participate in the authority? And what sort of authority is the one being talked about, whose composition is subject to the occupation authorities' approval?" Nazzal pointed out that "Hamas' continuation of the resistance is linked to the presence of the occupation. As long as the Israeli occupation continues to exist, the resistance against it will continue and never cease." He added that he accepts "the flexibility that does not deviate from the constants and that gives room for moving toward achieving the Palestinian aims.... If the intention is to say that Hamas is showing one thing and concealing another, and that its positions are aimed at achieving some interests, even if these interests conflict with its principles and constants, this concept does not apply to us and is unacceptable to us."

Hamas' representative in Amman went on to say that the "al-Qassam Battalions will not be abolished, nor will they cease to operate. Nor is there any reason to do that as long as the occupation is still weighing heavily on our land. In fact all international conventions and treaties guarantee us the right to resist as long as the causes prompting this resistance have not been eliminated."

Asked who is going to agree to support them financially if efforts to establish a comprehensive settlement continue, Nazzal said: "Despite our repeated affirmations that we have not received any money from any official quarter, it seems there is a determination to stir up this matter." He added: "I believe that those who raise these questions are comparing us with those on the Palestinian scene who received millions of dollars during the decades in which conditions were favorable for confronting the occupation, but they could not achieve what Hamas has now achieved. So it is difficult for some people to accept the fact that Hamas has achieved a lot with limited resources."

Nazzal stressed that "Hamas has not received any money from any official quarter so far." He added that "it does not mean that we consider such support for Palestinian action a crime that should be denied. We believe that bolstering the Palestinian people's steadfastness and resistance against the occupation is a pan-Arab and Islamic duty for all Arab and Islamic quarters, official and popular." He added that Hamas does not reject such an unconditional support. "But the facts should be stated as they stand in order to put matters straight."

Nazzal described Hamas' relations with the other nine factions of the "Palestinian Forces Alliance" opposed to the Oslo accord as "good. We are coordinating with them in order to consolidate and unite our efforts and tackle the challenges of this stage." He stressed that Hamas "is not accused by anyone. It declares its positions clearly and courageously. We offered our opinion clearly on a number of issues" during the alliance's meeting two weeks ago. It was "from the position of an ally seeking common denominators."

Further on Nazzal's View of Elections

JN1805100394 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 17-18 May 94 p 1

[By Hanadi Saqf-al-Sayl]

[Text] Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Hamas Movement in Jordan, has said the movement supports legislative elections, through which the Palestinian people would freely elect their leadership and representatives. In an exclusive interview with AKHIR KHABAR, Nazzal said Hamas reiterated its rejection of self-rule and the agreement which paved the road for it. He said: This stand does not contradict the movement's stand welcoming the return of the Palestinian police. He said: We consider the police to be part of our Palestinian people and call on them to safeguard the unity of the people, not to crush them or confiscate their freedom. He said: We will not clash with them.

Nazzal denied reports that Hamas has asked the PLO to mediate with Israeli authorities to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. He said this issue cannot be used as bargaining card to pressure the movement, saying Shaykh Yasin himself rejects this. He said: No contacts to this effect have been made with the PLO.

Muhammad Nazzal reiterated Hamas' rejection of recent developments, noting that the refusal of national figures respected by Palestinians to participate in the national authority shows the recent agreement has blatantly bypassed the rights of the Palestinian people.

Islamic Jihad To Examine 'New Conditions' After Accord

TA1705175894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 May 94 pp 1, 18

[Text] Damascus—In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, general secretary of the Islamic Jihad Movement, said that the Islamic Jihad Movement realizes that it is facing a changing and new reality, which calls for drawing up a dynamic and new program. He added: We will examine and reevaluate the new conditions with a view to formulating a more effective program.

Al-Shaqaqi noted that some of the details of this reality are still ambiguous. This will affect a decision on all these issues and will leave options and possibilities open. He criticized the recent Cairo agreement and affirmed his movement's refusal to recognize this agreement, which according to him gives the occupation legitimacy over a major part of Palestine in return for ridiculous self-rule over a small part of the homeland.

Al-Shaqaqi added: We have to continue mobilizing the people against the agreement and draw attention to its dangers, which are epitomized by the loss of Palestine; the annulment of the Palestinian people's presence; and

Israel's decisive victory. Israel is entering the region as a recognized central and dominating power with a recognized role.

On the Islamic Jihad Movement's stance toward the Palestinian police, al-Shaqaqi stressed that one of his movement's priorities will be to avoid armed clashes with the Palestinian authority and police and that Islamic Jihad will do its utmost to avoid clashes even if it is forced to change its tactics in Gaza. He noted that one of Israel's major goals is to spark these clashes and preoccupy the Palestinians.

Al-Shaqaqi said that it was important to achieve a more effective political, social, and cultural presence in the coming stage while affirming the unity of and coordination among opposition Islamic and national forces. This, in a bid to reach the best practical program possible so as to move beyond just issuing statements while the effort on the ground remains divided and isolated.

In answer to a question about an issue currently preoccupying the Israelis, namely, whether he had any information about missing and captured Israelis, especially the pilot Ron Arad, al-Shaqaqi said that according to his information all missing Israelis, with the exception of Ron Arad, were dead. Those missing in 1982 were killed and there are conflicting reports about the whereabouts of their bodies. Two Israeli soldiers were captured by Hizballah fighters in 1986. One of them was killed on the spot and the other died from his wounds. As for Ron Arad, he was captured by the fighters of the "Faithful Resistance," which is a small splinter faction of the Amal Movement and holds Islamic tendencies. This faction was recently disbanded.

Al-Shaqaqi added that the Faithful Resistance leaders say that they did capture Ron Arad but that after a while he disappeared or fled and that most likely an unknown party is still holding him. In any case, this party must be protecting him and has important reasons for doing so.

British Ambassador Delivers Message to 'Arafat

LD1705181294 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The brother President 'Arafat received today His Excellency the British Ambassador to Tunisia Sir Michael Tait, who delivered to him a message from British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

The meeting was an opportunity, during which the brother president reviewed with the ambassador the latest developments at the Palestinian scene in light of the signing of the agreement of implementing the self-rule in the Gaza sector and Jericho.

The meeting was attended by brothers Nabil Sha'th and Dr. Sami Musallam.

Algeria

Sifi Pledges To Continue To Fight 'Terrorism'

LD1705135994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] In the framework of the visits that yesterday led him to a number of health-related, tourist, and industrial installations and facilities in Algiers, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi stopped at the premises of the paper L'OPINION where he had a chat with journalists on some important issues such as the security situation in the country. Rachid reports:

[Rachid] Dealing with the security issue, Sifi stressed to journalists of the paper L'OPINION the determination of the state to fight terrorism, and he affirmed that the role of the government lay in providing security and protection to citizens and property. In this respect, the prime minister reiterated his solidarity with the families of the victims of terrorism all the more because we are on the eve of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

The prime minister also underlined that the state will endeavor to provide all means to increase and strengthen the capabilities of the security forces in their confrontation with terrorism. He stressed that the state will never make peace with terrorism and never stop fighting it until security and stability return and the people are able, in the future, to choose their leaders and representatives without pressure or coercion. Concerning negotiations with trade unions on wages, jobs, and unemployment benefits, the prime minister said that the government remains prepared to listen to all suggestions, and he affirmed that wage increases will not be ruled out when accompanied by increase in production.

Speaking on the information sector, Sifi stressed his desire to break the wall between the public-owned and private press. The prime minister also insisted on defending the right to life before any other consideration, and he reminded that practicing the trade of journalism at this time in the country calls for caution in accepting news from unreliable sources. Concerning access to information, about which journalists have long complained, the prime minister said that there are arrangements that should be made at the level of the premiership to resolve this problem and create direct links between the sources of information and the press.

Authorities Say 20 'Terrorists' Killed, 22 Arrested

LD1705201594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] A statement by the security services reported that 20 terrorists have been eliminated and 22 others arrested in Saida, Batna, Jijel, and Bou Merdes. A quantity of weapons has also been recovered.

Installation of National Council Expected 18 May

LD1605224594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The installation of the Transitional National Council is expected to take place on 18 May. The news was carried by the Algerian news agency [APS], which quoted a well-informed source. The same source added that the Transitional National Council will be made up of 178 members, 22 of whom will be leaders of political parties and 21 others leaders of associations.

Over to Aicha Degha for more details:

The Transitional National Council is a legislative body that will reinforce the constitutional apparatus stipulated in the document of consensus, which in turn constitutes a point of reference for the transitional period. This transitional period will last three years before a return to the electoral process.

According to the APS dispatch, the seats of some political parties that did not take in the national dialogue conference will remain vacant. The distribution of seats according to age shows that 52 members are 40 years old at the most and that the youngest member of the transitional national council was born in 1969, while the oldest was born in 1918.

These figures indicate that the council takes into account all age groups. Moreover, many members of this body are highly educated university graduates.

Special Judicial Council Passes 18 Death Sentences

LD1605033294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] The security services reported on 15 May that an armed groups support network was dismantled. A total of 31 people in the support group were active in the areas of Jijel and Mila.

The same sources emphasized that this support network—composed basically of militants from the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front—were involved in the assassination of the head of the executive body of Tassala municipality as well of the arson attacks in Tassala and Rouached.

Furthermore, the special judicial council of the capital Algiers issued on 15 May 18 death sentences—four were passed on people present before the court.

The sentences were given to members of a group consisting of 47 members active in Tipaza Province, especially in Kolea, Douaouda, and Hadjout.

Egypt

Musa Calls For 'Immediate' Cease-Fire in Yemen

NC1705211694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Brussels this evening after chairing meetings of the Egyptian-European Cooperation Council.

In his arrival statement, he said the council meeting discussed means to enhance cooperation between the two sides and that an agreement was reached to start a new phase of Egyptian-European (?partnership) in a new framework by taking the new situation into consideration.

Concerning the situation in Yemen, he said the military conflict was a tragic action that would achieve no good and that it would not resolve the dispute. He added that efforts to handle this situation must continue, and there must be an immediate cease-fire, disengagement of forces, and a dialogue to deal with this situation in accordance to the Yemeni leaders' views. He noted that Egypt is monitoring the situation carefully.

Paper Backs Decision Not To Send Troops to Yemen

NC1605081894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR praises the wisdom and courage of President Husni Mubarak, who loudly declared that Egypt will send no soldier to Yemen. Yemen, the paper says, is a country where brothers fight each other and launch air raids on northern and southern cities and villages.

In its editorial today, the paper says President Mubarak's decision to send no Egyptian or Arab forces to Yemen was made because any role these forces might play could endanger them or subject them to accusations from rival Yemeni parties. It adds: The harm would be great and could complicate the crisis in a tragedy that no one can resolve except those who created it.

The paper notes that a dialogue with words, not guns and tanks, is the only way to resolve the Yemeni crisis. It expresses the hope that the rival Yemeni parties will come to their senses, replace their weapons with more civilized means, a dialogue between brothers, resort to reason, and renounce differences to preserve Yemen's unity.

Defense Minister Holds 'Successful' U.S. Talks

Explores Joint Security Strategy

NC1605175094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 May 94 p 1

[Report by Hamdi Fu'ad in Washington]

[Text] After successful talks in Washington, and before leaving for Cairo, Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi announced that his talks with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry dealt with military cooperation between Egypt and the United States and focused on a joint strategy to ensure security, stability, and reconstruction in the Middle East. He said the talks also dealt with developments in Yemen, which he described as very regrettable.

The minister expressed Egypt's hope that all sides in Yemen will demonstrate self-restraint and use logic to end the explosive struggle with a view to preserving the lives of innocent people and sparing the states of the region the repercussions of this struggle. Field Marshal Tantawi described his talks with U.S. congressmen as successful. He said the congressmen understand Egypt's importance and role in the region, and the U.S. Administration, Congress, and the Pentagon appreciate President Mubarak's positions and Egypt's role. Tantawi invited the U.S. defense secretary to visit Egypt; Perry said he is looking forward to the visit, which he will make sometime this year.

Briefs Mubarak on U.S. Visit

NC1605105194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi at the Presidential Office this morning. Field Marshal Tantawi returned to Cairo from Washington yesterday after a visit of several days to the United States.

Speaking after the meeting, Tantawi said he briefed President Mubarak on the results of his visit to the United States and his meetings with senior military, U.S. Administration, and Congress officials. He noted that the U.S. officials expressed their appreciation of Egypt and of President Mubarak's role in its every aspect, particularly regarding world peace and the Israeli- Palestinian Agreement recently signed in Cairo.

The defense minister added that his talks in Washington covered every current world issue, Egypt's role in the region, Egyptian-U.S. military ties and cooperation in the field of joint training, and the U.S. military grant to Egypt. He described the results of these talks as good.

Asked about reports on a reduction in U.S. aid, which will be directed to East Europe, and how prepared Egypt is to deal with such a reduction, the defense minister said the U.S. Administration has reduced its own military budget. As a result, he added, there was a tendency to reduce foreign aid. But considering the role Egypt is playing and in view of its importance, its status, and its Armed Forces in the region, I hope Egypt will not be affected by such a reduction.

Asked about the notion of replacing the U.S. aid with cooperation in the field of technology transfer to compensate for the loss and whether his talks in Washington dealt with this, Field Marshal Tantawi said: It is not an issue of replacement; the two things must go together. He noted that cooperation exists between Egypt and the United States in every field. He added: I have sensed an understanding of Egypt's role and position and our bilateral relations are proceeding in the right direction, be it in the field of technology transfer, aid, joint training, or other areas.

Asked if anything new in the field of military cooperation was agreed upon with the United States, the defense minister said there are procedures concerning the armament and modernization of the Armed Forces and U.S. assistance in these areas, noting that these procedures follow an established plan and that the plan is continuing.

Asked if new arms deals were concluded as part of this plan, Field Marshal Tantawi said: We operate according to a five-year plan, which is proceeding in the right direction.

Muslim Brotherhood Rejects Mubarak Allegations

PM1705160094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 May 94 p 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "Mubarak Accuses Muslim Brotherhood of Supporting Terrorism; Al-Hudaybi Stresses Renunciation of Violence"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—Signs of a new crisis between the Egyptian Government and the Muslim Brotherhood group have emerged in the wake of an interview President Husni Mubarak gave to the German newspaper DER SPIEGEL, published yesterday. In the interview Mubarak described the Muslim Brotherhood as "an illegal group supporting most of the terrorists' activities." Mubarak's statement provoked varying reactions on the Egyptian political scene.

Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood, has denied the existence of any link between the group and the extremists. He also denied that it supports violent and terrorist actions. He told AL-HAYAH that violent and terrorist actions have occurred over 25 years, and investigations have proved that the Muslim Brotherhood has no link with the extremist organizations whose members carried out these actions. He stressed that the Muslim Brotherhood "has never been implicated in supporting, inciting, or participating in actions violating the law. So it is strange for accusations to be leveled at it without any evidence."

Al-Hudaybi added that "Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi, who is responsible for following up security conditions and pursuing those who violate the law, announced in a news conference about a month ago that the Muslim Brotherhood has nothing to do with any violence or any link with terrorist actions. And former Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said the same thing."

On Mubarak's statement on conditions in Algeria, Al-Hudaybi said that "what happened in Algeria was not the result of aggression from the groups calling for reenforcing the Islamic Shari'ah. It was the result of a military coup against the will of the people, who had chosen the Islamists through free elections."

On the national dialogue called for by Mubarak, Al-Hudaybi said: "We have no information about the dialogue issue. [Government] officials have announced openly that the Muslim Brotherhood will not participate in it. We do not believe it is a serious matter, as it was first mentioned eight months ago, and no measures have been taken so far to initiate it. If the government believed it was important, it would have taken steps to initiate it and ensured the participation of all the political forces on the Egyptian scene." He said that the dialogue "will produce no results."

Al-Hudaybi said that the Muslim Brotherhood is subjected to security harassment, "and from time to time members of the group are arrested and interrogated in imaginary cases, even though our position on violence and terrorism is clear and declared." [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Derides Cairo Accord, PLO

NC1705154194 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 May 94 p 7

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood has issued a statement reiterating its opposition to the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and last week's signing ceremony in Cairo for the commencement of its implementation. In its statement, the Muslim Brotherhood said: "It has become evident that the PLO has given all the required concessions. The PLO continued to concede right up to the last moment before signing. The PLO has linked itself to the Zionist entity by accepting self-rule. Hence, the PLO has become a tool of the Zionist hegemony in Palestine and the Arab and Islamic region."

Continuing, the Muslim Brotherhood said: "The Cairo Agreement is not binding on the Muslim brothers, the issue of Palestine is the responsibility of all Muslims, and the liberation of the holy land in Palestine is the duty of every male and female Muslim. Furthermore, the Cairo agreement does not achieve the minimum of the just demands of the Palestinian people, because the basic issues are still pending, including the issues of the displaced, refugees, holy Jerusalem, settlements, and the setting up of the Palestinian state on all the Palestinian soil."

The Muslim Brotherhood called on the Arab and Islamic people to support the Palestinian people's jihad by continuing the complete boycott of the Zionist entity and reviving the jihad spirit among the youth.

PLO's Sha'th Arrives, Discusses Jerusalem

NC1805072994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo from Tunis early today.

In an arrival statement, Sha'th said the Palestinians came a step closer to their dream of full independence with the restoration of control over their land under the leadership of the PLO and the Palestine Liberation Army.

The next three months, he added, will see the liberation of the cities of Nabulus, Hebron, and Ramallah. We hope to achieve there what has been achieved in Gaza and Jericho, Sha'th said. He pointed out that Jerusalem is the highest objective and dearest hope of the Palestinians but will not be discussed until the negotiations on a "final settlement" begin around 15 October.

The return of 6,000 officers and soldiers to the Palestinian land in Gaza and Jericho will open the door for the return of their 35,000 relatives. Some 5,000 more Palestinian cadres are also expected to return to Gaza and Jericho. In June, the doors will open for the return of approximately 860,000 refugees who left their land following the 1967 war, Dr. Sha'th announced.

Dr. Sha'th expressed appreciation for the support the Palestinians received from President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people and Government, particularly the Foreign and Information Ministries and the Armed Forces. Egypt sacrificed some of its valiant sons in the war for Palestine and then stood by the side of the Palestinians in the negotiations, he declared.

The Palestinian official pointed out that he will enter Jericho with president Yasir 'Arafat in the first week of June. He expressed the hope that a Palestinian government will be formed that can achieve security and justice and pursue the successes in the negotiations until the gradual liberation of the entire Palestinian land.

Dr. Sha'th added that on his short visit to Tunis he briefed members of the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council and the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement on the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement.

Reaction to Detained Lawyer's Death Continues

'Islamist' Lawyers Mourn 'Martyr'

NC1705104594 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 12-18 May 94 p 2

[Report by Ranya Khallaf: "Lawyers Furor in Central Cairo"]

[Text] The death in police custody of 32-year-old lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani triggered an angry protest by hundreds of lawyers at the Cairo headquarters of the Lawyers Syndicate last Tuesday. The police said death had been due to natural causes, but members of the Muslim Brotherhood-controlled syndicate insisted he had died as a result of torture. Madani was arrested on 26 April and transferred to the prisoners' wing of Qasr al-'Ayni hospital a few days later, where he subsequently died. His family was informed of his death on 6 May and asked to collect his body.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi vehemently denied allegations that Madani's death had been other than a natural one, asserting that "the man died of an asthma attack, and it has nothing to do with torture."

Reported to have been a prominent member of the clandestine al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, Madani was heavily involved in defending its members before the courts and had on several occasions faced charges himself connected to militant Islamist activities.

But according to Kamal Khalid, an independent member of parliament and lawyer, Madani had recently been trying to negotiate truce between the al-Jama'ah and the state. Khalid, in an interview with AL-AHRAM WEEKLY, claimed that shortly before his arrest Madani had approached him and asked him to relate to the security bodies a proposal to end the violence on both sides. Khalid added that Madani had told him the al-Jama'ah had realised that "certain foreign powers were using the confrontation to harm the country, and was therefore willing to end its attacks if the security forces did the same." The security officials Khalid approached with the proposal refused to discuss it however, he went on to allege.

Islamist members of the Lawyers Syndicate hailed Madani as a martyr and vowed to avenge him. "Martyr have no fear, your death shall be avenged," the protesting lawyers chanted at the syndicate's headquarters on Tuesday. On the balconies of the syndicate's second floor stood veiled women dressed in black equally chanting slogans while some wept.

Heavily surrounded by contingents of the anti-riot Central Security Forces, the syndicate headquarters in central Cairo was enveloped in banners, posters and signs denouncing the alleged murder of Madani. The lawyers threatened to take their protest to the streets, demanding a full investigation into the incident. Meanwhile the massive police siege to prevent the outbreak of demonstrations created havoc with the already congested traffic throughout central Cairo. However, and despite the fierceness of the slogans, the police stood and watched as the lawyers carried on with their protest within the syndicate's gates.

Tuesday's angry protest was not confined to the Islamists however, but included leftists, Nasirists and a number of Wafdists. The head of the Cairo branch of the Lawyers Syndicate, leading Wafdist Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz addressed the protest rally saying that Madani's death "strengthens our resolve and determination to defend

freedom and liberties." He went on to warn, "It will not be the last unless we take strong and united action against such violations."

Tuesday's show of unity did not heal the deep fracture in the ranks of the Islamists themselves however. Muntasir al-Zayyat, a prominent lawyer for members of the Jihad and the al-Jama'ah told AL-AHRAM WEEKLY after the protest that the Muslim Brotherhood members of the Lawyers Syndicate's Executive Council were equally to blame for Madani's death. "They should have taken more decisive action on this and similar cases," he said, adding that some 30 lawyers were still subject to administrative detention. Earlier, the Association of Islamist Lawyers, of which al-Zayyat is a leading member, issued a statement accusing the council of "complicity and cowardice". Commenting on the day's events, al-Zayyat criticised the council for failing to organise a street demonstration to protest Madani's death. He described the recommendations adopted by the council during the rally as inadequate.

For its part, the council issued a number of resolutions demanding that an independent autopsy be conducted on Madani's body and that the culprits in his alleged torture be named and duly punished. It also demanded the release of all lawyers subject to administrative detention. It warned that unless these demands are complied with, it will call for a general lawyers strike next Sunday and for a peaceful street demonstration.

Tear Gas Fired at Protesters

NC1705135394 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 17 (AFP)—Egyptian riot police fired tear-gas at thousands of lawyers trying to march on to a presidential palace here Tuesday to protest the death of a jailed colleague allegedly tortured to death last week.

About 6,000 lawyers gathered at the Bar Association's headquarters in central Cairo. Riot police intervened with tear-gas as the demonstrators neared the gates to start their march.

The lawyers, who had assured the protest would be peaceful, were forced back into the grounds. Most of Egypt's 180,000 lawyers went on strike Sunday. They are protesting the death of 'Abd-al-Harith Madani on April 27, a day after he was detained for allegedly acting as a go-between for jailed Moslem extremists and their contacts abroad. He was a defence lawyer for Moslem fundamentalist spiritual leader Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and other members of Islamic groups fighting to overthrow the government.

Last week, the Prosecutor General's Office issued a preliminary report by legal medical experts concluding he had been tortured to death. But, the Interior Ministry insisted he died of an asthma attack.

The Lawyers' Association described Madani's death as "premeditated murder," and the Egyptian Organization of Human Rights also charged he died of torture.

Interior Ministry Issues Statement

NC1705201794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—The Interior Ministry today praised the stand of the majority of lawyers, who issued a statement on behalf of the Egyptian Society for Young Lawyers to denounce the moves of a minority of self-interested members of the Bar Association who claim that they belong to the Islamic trend.

A responsible security source said the ministry issued a statement last Saturday on the arrest of a leading group that had assisted terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hammam, including Lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, a dangerous terrorist who played a major role in recent terrorist incidents and who was arrested on 3 July 1990. He and others were also charged in Case No. 7 of 1990 in Markaz Isna for attacking citizens and preventing them from visiting cemeteries.

The source said that the statement also indicated that Lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani was also charged in Case No. 4116 of 1991, the jurisdiction of Markaz Isna, when he was caught while distributing leaflets inciting extremist thought and instigating acts of violence.

The security source said in his statement that the Interior Ministry's statement of last Saturday contained a warning about moves by some self-interested people who try in one way or another to support terrorism by using some confrontations to assume false heroic poses.

He added that in its statement the Ministry stressed its intention to confront these elements firmly and decisively should they contemplate any attempts to violate legitimacy and the law under this cover while only aiming to create confusion among the people.

The source added that this morning some elements known for their activities in connection with these groups and some members of the dissolved and banned Muslim Brotherhood incited some lawyers and misled members of the Bar Association to assemble at the Bar Association headquarters. There they urged the lawyers to stage a mass demonstration to rouse the public, incite them to violate the law, and subject the public to the danger of infiltration by elements who pursue only sedition and deception.

Responsible Interior Ministry security sources said the security forces have emphatically advised these groups repeatedly not to stage any demonstrations from the Bar Association headquarters out of concern for the citizens' lives and security. But, he added, it was evident that there was a purposeful intention by this renegade minority to carry out sedition and incitement.

He said this intention was manifested when those who gathered inside the Bar Association building threw bricks and stones down onto the police and passers by and then rushed into the street in a vociferous demonstration chanting hostile slogans.

The source added that the security forces deployed in the area intervened immediately to break up the demonstration and arrested 39 of the leaders. It transpired that there were 27 lawyers among them; the rest were not members of the Bar Association.

He said that lawyer Mursi Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir and (?teacher) Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ibrahim al-Jiddawi suffered slight injuries for which they were hospitalized but no damage was caused in the area because the security forces took control of the situation.

The Interior Ministry responsible security source revealed that the Ministry authorities had received information that some extremist members of the Bar Association had called on their colleagues to carry arms to confront the security forces.

He said the Ministry authorities at dawn today compiled a report on this information, numbered 2293-Qasr al-Nil, and sent it to the competent prosecution office.

The security source said that the Interior Ministry has been patient with all the incitement incidents since the death of terrorist 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, despite the extremely sensitive security circumstances at this time.

He explained that the Ministry did this to show the inevitability of democracy, which has been emphasized by the political leadership; but the attempts by a hireling minority of Bar Association members prompted the security forces to decisively confront this morning's attempts to endanger the Egyptian public's lives and property.

The Interior Ministry will issue a comprehensive statement containing updated information and details on the issue at a later time.

Prime Minister Sidqi's Activities Reported

Vows Development of Upper Egypt

NC1605152494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Today Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi issued statements to reporters announcing that there are comprehensive plans to develop, economically and socially, the governorates of Upper Egypt and to build a number of industrial zones in the new cities of these governorates. Dr. 'Atif Sidqi also announced that the Investment Authority has begun to act on President Husni Mubarak's directives to immediately launch the projects that investors will be carrying out without any hindrances. These investments amount to 10 million Egyptian pounds. The objective of these projects is to encourage industrial and agricultural development, to create new job opportunities, and to increase exports.

Dr. Sidqi concluded his statements by saying that this was one of the major points in President Mubarak's Labor Day speech.

Receives PRC Delegation

NC1705173394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—At his office today Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi received a Communist Party of China [CPC] delegation that is visiting Cairo. The delegation is led by CPC Politburo member Wei Jianxing.

Dr. Sidqi said after the meeting that they had reviewed the prospects of further cooperation between the two countries in light of the results of President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to China.

He added that they discussed initial plans for building free industrial zones in Sinai, as agreed upon during Mubarak's visit to Beijing. Sidqi explained that they also discussed exchanges of expertise in the technical and scientific spheres and in the field of economic reform. He pointed out that China has achieved approximately a 13 percent a year economic growth rate.

Ambassador Ahmad Namiq, political adviser at the Prime Minister's Office and former ambassador to China, also attended the meeting.

Defends IMF-Linked Reforms

NC1705185694 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 12-18 May 94 p 2

[Report by Jamal 'Isam-al-Din: "IMF Reforms Under Attack"]

[Text] The government got a fresh vote of confidence from the People's Assembly in the early hours of Tuesday after Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi defended its economic performance against a verbal onslaught by two left-wing deputies who lashed out at its International Monetary Fund inspired economic reform policy.

The verbal lashing came from al-Badri Farghali, the Port Said representative of the leftwing National Progressive Unionist Grouping, and Ahmad Taha, an independent with leftist leanings from Cairo's al-Sahil district. Both charged that widespread poverty and greater social instability were the inevitable results of economic reform measures imposed on the government by the IMF and the World Bank.

Sidqi denounced Farghali's speech as "hollow and outdated slogans" and said it must have been written for him by "people whom time had left behind". Sidqi said the IMF and World Bank never dictate policies, asserting that the economic reform laws were not the product of

their instructions but rather a reflection of the need to generate high rates of growth.

To prove his point, he cited statistics that the budget deficit fell from 30 per cent in the pre-reform period to 2.6 per cent at present. Inflation rates, he added, fell from 25 per cent to 7.3 per cent at present, while the balance of payments secured a surplus for the first time in 1991 amounting to US$5.6 billion. This surplus dropped, however, to $2 billion in 1993/94 as a result of the slump in tourism.

Sidqi argued that the sale of public assets is a means of attracting more investments and attributed the financial losses suffered by public sector companies to "old and shameful" economic policies. These companies are under financial restructuring at present.

Stressing that the government is mindful of the social dimensions of economic reform, Sidqi said it devotes special attention to the deprived sectors of society. As a result, budgetary allocations for education rose from LE [Egyptian pound] 674 million in 1981 to LE9.4 billion this year, health allocations from 267 million in 1981 to 3.5 billion, and subsidy allocations from LE1.6 billion in 1981 to LE4 billion.

Farghali had charged that economic reform measures gave the IMF and World Bank the upper hand in tightening their control over the destinies of Egyptians. He said agreements concluded with them contributed to the disintegration of Egyptian society and undermined its long-time cohesion.

Farghali showed the House a document purporting to be an agreement with the World Bank to raise local energy prices to world levels by 1995. Displaying a letter from the World Bank to under-secretaries at the International Cooperation Ministry and the Social Insurance Organisation asking them to abide by the time-schedule of economic reform, Farghali charged the IMF and World Bank gave themselves the right to interfere in the performance of government under-secretaries. He also produced a letter from the World Bank to Deputy Prime Minister Kamal al-Janzuri listing 65 economic reform measures that the government has to take before July 1995. These include laws on foreign exchange, a new sales tax, a unified tax, a reduction in tariff levels, more investment incentives and the liberalisation of housing rents.

Farghali said that among the negative social consequences of economic reform was the escalation of terrorism. "Roses never grow in swamps and swamps never produce roses," said Farghali, asking Sidqi to tell him how many terrorists were employed.

Sidqi admitted that most of the documents produced by Farghali were authentic but denied that they wee deliberately kept secret by the government. "The contents of such documents were freely debated on more than one occasion. May our hands be cut off if they sign anything that is contrary to the interests of Egypt or its people," Sidqi said. He stressed that at no time was economic reform dictated by the IMF and World Bank.

For his part, Ahmad Taha described the agreements with the IMF and the World Bank as "colonial intervention and a cultural setback" which breed "parasitic, capitalist forces that plunder Egypt and diffuse corruption". He said the Egyptian economy was falling prey to those Mafia-like parasitic forces and urged the government to rebel against the IMF and World Bank, liquidate the ill-effects of their dictated policies and develop a self-reliant approach. Taha said that Egypt has such great resources that "we can grow to become not only tigers but also Pharaohs".

In his speech, Sidqi denied that the government violated the constitution in introducing economic reforms. The constitution is not static, he said, and "we cannot live without making changes".

Hails Economic Successes

NC1705204294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] This evening, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi chaired a Ministerial Economic Group meeting to review the implementation of the economic reform program's second phase and to discuss future cooperation between Egypt, the IMF, and the World Bank.

In a press statement released today, the prime minister said that Egypt has achieved distinct success in implementing economic reform programs. This, he added, was evident in the Egyptian pounds' steady exchange rates against foreign currencies, especially the dollar. He said the Egyptian Central Bank had a $16 billion surplus and this recently increased by $400 million.

Sidqi said the government is in the process of devising a new workers' law to be submitted to the People's Assembly during its current session.

Libya

CIA Viewed as 'Den of Terrorism'

LD1805093694 Tripoli JANA in English 0851 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, al Maa' [May] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ever since it was established, American Central Intelligence has played the role of a saboteur, which has been extremely dangerous in international relations and internal affairs throughout the world which assumed that the end of the Second World War would bring an end to antagonistic conflicts, conspiracies and plots. This after the people gave their lives and all they had, involved in a conflict which they had nothing to do with. It was a war conducted by the Europeans where the United States attempted to fulfill its expansionist aspirations and to extend beyond the borders of the American continent. A role which

expanded and was undertaken using all types of methods, the most dangerous being American Central Intelligence, which is considered, without exaggeration, to be the den of terrorism in the world, responsible for criminal activities which threatened to disrupt stability in the world. It is they who are responsible for the coup d'etats in independent nations—examples of this abound: Iran in the 1950's, Cuba in the 1960's, then Chile, Panama, Peru, Argentina and [words indistinct].

American intelligence is also responsible for the killing of thousands of people, the assasination of dozens of leaders and national figures, such as Nkrumah, Lumumba, Allende, Maurice Bishop and dozens of assasination attempts against Castro, [word indstinct] Nasir, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and other leaders in the ugliest scenes of terrorism and conspiracy. The CIA gave support to and trained the terrorist rebel groups opposed to these leaders peoples. The CIA set up training camps specially for these terrorists to prepare them to carry out psychological warfare, sabotage and bloodshed, such as happened in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Angola and other regions. The CIA planned and administered America's wars and its intervention in foreign countries. The CIA was directly responsible for the defeats the United States sufferred in Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bolivia and Somalia. It is they who completely disregarded the allegations propagated by American administrations concerning the protection of 'human rights'. The CIA set up military dictatorships and lent support to dictatorships, the minority fascist regimes and aborted the national experiments of nations to ensure that these nations remained in servitude, injustice, repression without being able to achieve their freedom or progress. The trafficking in drugs between nations even the United States [sentence as received]. This is the most heinous crimes committed by the CIA as well as its relations with drug trafficking gangs the most notorious being the Medeilin gang in Colombia and the Contra gangs in Nicaragua. In addition, there is the CIA's links with the Mafia.

These incidents and links have multiplied until becoming outright terrorism organised against independent nations by imposing economic, military and scientific restrictions and threatening to starve these nations and brandishing the threat of direct military intervention. They use financial pressure, stir up problems and plot coups thus, the targetted nations find themselves victims of this terrorism of the CIA. This is why the world is constantly in a state of anxiety and trepidation in response to these actions carried out by the CIA, actions which appear to be the precursor to the establishment of a world dictatorial police system under the control of the United States where freedom, justice, and democracy have no worth and where colonialism will be restored.

Source Comments on U.S. Charge of Terrorism

LD1205132394 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1144 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, 12 May (JANA)—A source at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation commented on the U.S. Administration's claims, reported by the [foreign] media, accusing several countries of supporting terrorism. He said: Inclusion of the Great Jamahiriyah in such claims and allegations and the concoction of accusations against it is not a new thing. It has become one of the hallmarks of the conspiracy against the Libyan Arab people in order to exert pressure on its choices and to force it to serve certain interests which are known to everyone.

Concerning the issue of terrorism and other related matters which have been used by the Western powers to serve their interests in the world, we wish to explain the following points:

1. The Great Jamahiriyah, which is eager to see international peace and security established on solid bases which will help relations between peoples of the world to be based on equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs as well as the nonuse of violence in resolving disputes, has been calling on the international community to overcome negative aspects [in international relations], such as the phenomenon of terrorism, by defining it, analyzing the reasons for it, and combatting it.

2. The Great Jamahiriyah is another victim of terrorism, particularly the state terrorism which has been used against it for years, a matter which has claimed tens of innocent victims as well as causing material damage. It reached its zenith during the U.S.-Atlantist aggression against the innocent inhabitants of Tripoli and Benghazi in April 1986, as well as against the brother leader of the revolution and his family. This was a serious international precedent, condemned by the UN General Assembly in successive resolutions.

3. The Great Jamahiriyah reacted to the U.S. Administration's claims on terrorism with clear and public statements, documented by international and regional organizations, in which they condemned terrorism in all its forms. All international organizations and bodies highly praised this stand.

4. The Great Jamahiriyah, in a bid to refute American claims, asked the UN secretary-general to take appropriate measures to expose the falsehood of such claims.

Daily Asserts Visting Western Tourists Spies

LD1205142294 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, 12 May 1994, JANA—AL-SHAM has affirmed that any exchange of interests, tourists, and friendship is merely a cover being used by Western powers to sneak in caravans of spies and agents as well as

to set up bases to be used for planning dirty operations and the gathering of information.

It pointed out in an article published in today's issue that the latest of those who entered our country for innocent reasons was a German tourist. He entered Libya, but after being involved in a traffic accident he turned to be the director of a department at the German intelligence. This confirms that as soon as a Westerner is involved in an accident or if he dies in our Arab homeland his government swiftly announces publicly through various media organs that he is a spy.

Under the header "They Are All Spies," AL-SHAMS says: Many Westerners have been entering our Arab region legally and for other public purposes. They are traders, tourists, commercial representatives, businessmen, diplomats, or workers in the so-called humanitarian agencies. They all claim that they are in love with the East. Arab countries open their doors for them by extending to them the renown Arab hospitality, the warmth of Eastern feelings, and a will to exchange with them friendship and interests.

The paper AL-SHAMS affirms that, if true, this a required and desired logical thing. However, the West always reveals to us a different face of those tourists, traders, diplomats, and humanitarian organization officials. The West reveals their true identity when it happens that one of them becomes involved in a road accident, an aggression, a disappearance, or a kidnapping by unknown persons. Then the state of the person involved hurriedly reveals his true identity and announces that the person in question is a spying intelligence officer, or the head of a spying network for his country, or an official of an administration of this network.

This happened in Lebanon, and everybody remembers the Western nationals who were kidnapped as civilians holding various functions. The Western news media themselves revealed their true identity as intelligence officers. Had this been a one-time incident, or related to just one Western country, we would have thought of good intentions and the matter would have stayed there. But the repetition of admissions of these repeated incidents involving several countries reveals a remarkable phenomenon that calls for thought and begs the following question: Why does the West send us only its intelligence officers and men? Americans entered Lebanon for apparently innocent and humanitarian causes, including religious purposes, and after their kidnapping, America announced that they were intelligence men on a spying mission.

Frenchmen also entered Lebanon for the same reasons. Englishmen entered Iraq and then Britain announced, after they had disappeared, that they were intelligence officers.

The last of those who entered our country for innocent reasons was a German tourist who entered Libya and was involved in a traffic accident, and lo and behold he turned out to be a department head in the German intelligence services.

Thus, with every accident or death of a Westerner in our Arab homeland his state quickly offers an official admission from the government through various media to the effect that the person concerned was a spy.

This frequency and repetition of the phenomenon confirms to us that all nationals from foreign states who enter our country are intelligence officers or agents for those states and that they move to achieve base objectives by carrying out acts of sabotage, sowing discords, spreading rumors, and affecting the morale of our nation.

[Passage indistinct]...and the building of bases to plan the dirty operations and gather information.

Can we now trust any Westerner who enters our country? And do we have the right to give them a friendly welcome and warm hospitality?

Sudan

Rebel Faction To Participate in 2d Session of Talks

EA1705220594 Khartoum SUNA in French 1630 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, 17 May (SUNA)—The four-party Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development commission, charged with supervising peace talks between the Sudanese Government and rebel factions of southern Sudan, told the Sudanese Government delegation, which is currently in Nairobi, that John Garang's faction would arrive in the Kenyan capital later on 17 May to take part in the second session of peace negotiations. This was announced by Mr. Mathiang Malwal, director of the Peace Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry. The Sudanese official, who spoke on the telephone with Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, spokesman for the Sudanese Government delegation, added that the other faction led by Riak Machar was expected to arrive in Nairobi on 18 May from Cyprus, where his delegation took part in a symposium on minorities.

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Ties With Iran

LD1805100594 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, May 18, IRNA—The Sudani deputy foreign minister, 'Umar Yusif Baridu, Tuesday called for strengthening of ties with Iran and said Khartoum is proud of having relations with Tehran. In a meeting with Iranian ambassador to Khartoum Majid Kamal, Baridu voiced his country's readiness to promote bilateral ties with Iran. He termed his recent trip to Iran and his negotiations with Iranian officials as fruitful.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese official expressed regret over fierce fighting in Yemen and Afghanistan. Referring to the conspiracies masterminded by the world arrogance against Muslims, Baridu urged for an end to the ongoing genocide of Muslims and called for the settlement of their disputes through peaceful means. At the end of the meeting he welcomed the imminent trip of his Iranian counterpart 'Abbas Maleki to Sudan.

Juba Political Conference of Peace Forces Convenes

EA1505145294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The Juba political conference of peace forces convened today in the town of Juba and comes as a confirmation and reassurance of the peace process and territorial integrity within the federal system. The conference also confirms that the Sudanese people share a common destiny, reject violence and fighting, and that the rebel movement still has the chance to return to the mainstream of the homeland so that all the sons of the homeland could embark on development and social and economic reconstruction.

Vice President Comments

EA1505175094 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 15 May 94

[Excerpt] Juba, 15 May (SUNA)—The convention of Juba peace gathering affirms the southerners' extreme desire for peace, said Vice President Major General George Kongor.

Addressing the opening session of the gathering, Kongor said that the gathering is a message unanimously reached by the internal front to condemn the acts of those who back the continuation of the war in the south. The revolution, he said, is keen to achieve the Sudanese peoples' full desire for a comprehensive peace and stability in southern Sudan. All the Sudanese people reject the continuation of the 14-year war, he added. [passage omitted]

Conference Ends; Resolutions Issued

AB1705151194 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The Juba political conference ended in the Bahr al-Jabal provincial capital today. It issued its resolutions and recommendations and the Juba declaration document.

The closing session was addressed by Angelo Beda, deputy speaker of the Transitional National Assembly and chairman of the conference steering committee, who said that the Juba conference constitutes a confirmation of national unity, a call to end the conflict, a prop for ongoing peace efforts, and an amplification of the voice of the silent majority of the sons of the south. He stressed that the conference was a means of strengthening federal rule, the policy adopted by the national salvation resolution to rebuild the country. Mr. Beda said the blend of cultures and different dialects emerging during the conference confirmed the keenness of the sons of the country to strengthen national unity.

Mr. Beda then read out the conference resolutions and recommendations, which broadly call for adherence to national unity and rejection of foreign interference aimed at weakening the country. The resolutions and recommendations condemned the desperate attempts by some southern factions to introduce proposals inconsistent with the views of the majority. The recommendations also stressed the need to establish just, permanent, and comprehensive peace; to speed up the end of the war; to adhere to the principles laid down by the national salvation revolution; to accept the federal system as a safe means of achieving national unity and to ensure effective participation in the process to ensure its success; and to establish a general authority to follow up the proceedings of the conference by steering the peace movement from within.

Afterwards, Professor 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu Zayd, rapporteur of the conference steering committee, presented the Juba declaration document, which appeals to those bearing arms to respond to the voice of reason, to stop the fighting, to return to the mainstream of the nation, to participate in the reconstruction of a respected and honored Sudan, to restore development and stability in the south, and to support ongoing efforts to establish peace from within.

Sudanese Officer Said Killed on Eritrean Border

PM1705111694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 May 94 p4

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Officer Killed in Clash on Border with Eritrea"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Sudanese sources yesterday spoke of more tension in Sudanese-Eritrean relations. They said that a clash occurred on the eastern border when a Sudanese "Land Cruiser" vehicle entered Eritrean territory. Eritrean forces chased it and clashed with it, killing one Sudanese security officer and arresting three others.

The sources said that the Eritrean authorities handed the officer's body over to the Sudanese authorities, which have kept silent about the matter. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Yemen's Basindwah Holds Talks With Amir, Officials

Arrives in Doha

JN1705113094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Doha, 17 May (WAKH)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah arrived in Doha at noon today on a two-day official visit to Qatar within a tour of a number of Arab countries. Basindwah will hold talks with senior Qatari officials on the latest developments in Yemen.

Amir Receives Basindwah

JN1805132794 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Doha, 18 May (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has expressed his country's extreme regret over the human and material losses resulting from the current situation in Yemen. He said that considering Yemeni events an internal affair, the State of Qatar hopes that the current situation will end as soon as possible in a manner that preserves Yemen's unity and historic achievements and restores security and stability.

The amir made these remarks when he received Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Basindwah, who conveyed to him an oral message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The Yemeni foreign minister left Doha this afternoon after a two-day visit to Qatar.

Basindwah Sets Conditions for Cease-Fire

JN1805142494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Doha, 18 May (WAKH)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has set four conditions for beginning a cease-fire, namely, recognizing legitimacy and the Constitution, resorting to the Constitution, the merger of the Armed Forces' units, and the surrender of the southern leaders to the legitimate leadership.

At a news conference he gave in Doha today at the end of his visit to the State of Qatar, the Yemeni minister said that the southern leaders' failure to meet these conditions will mean their inevitable end.

He asserted that secession is impossible, pointing out that Yemen will never again return to partition.

He added that what is happening is that the Yemeni leadership is defending legitimacy and the Constitution, adding that the legitimate leadership is eager to end the bloodshed, but that fighting has been imposed on it.

Saudi Arabia

Al-Bid Message Conveyed to Saudi King Fahd

EA1705192394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin'-'Abd-al-'Aziz, received a letter from Dr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council. The letter was handed over by Mr. Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, the minister of oil and mineral wealth, while being received by King Fahd in his office yesterday at (?al-Yamamah) palace. The letter contained an explanation of the latest developments in Yemen and the initiative presented by the Yemeni Socialist Party to stop the infighting.

United Arab Emirates

Yemen's Basindwah: 'End is Near' for 'Other Side'

PM1705161194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 May 94 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq in Abu-Dhabi; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Haqq] In view of the fact that you have rejected mediation in the current conflict, what message are you carrying for the Arab leaders on your current tour?

[Basindwah] Actually, the leaders in some Arab states have been influenced by hostile media. The evidence is that they view Yemen's unity in the same way as they viewed Egyptian-Syrian unity, and they fail to understand that Yemen is one country and one people, not two countries and two peoples.

Some Arab countries have also been making another mistake in that they describe the legitimate forces as the northern forces and the rebel forces as the southern forces, but the legitimate forces are forces from all over Yemen. The new defense minister comes from Abyan Governorate.

That is why I must explain to the Arab leaders the circumstances and how the fighting started, who started it, and how the political crisis in Yemen was a prelude to what is taking place now; and also explain that the crisis was fabricated in order to achieve peaceful secession, but when that failed the "mutineers against constitutional legitimacy" used the military card, hoping that Arab states and Arab forces would intervene and ask every side to return to its pre-unity positions.

['Abd-al-Haqq] So, on your tour, you are not seeking any kind of Arab mediation and you do not want any intervention in the current conflict in Yemen.

[Basindwah] Arab mediation would be pointless in our situation because what is happening now is that the legitimate authority is confronting rebel elements. We do not reject any endeavor to bring about a cease-fire provided there is adherence to international legitimacy and the Constitution, and provided the rest of the armed forces return to the legitimate command of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The other side is trying hard and desperately for a cease-fire because it knows that its end is near. Anyone who believes that what is happening in Yemen is a protracted civil war is mistaken. What is now taking place in Yemen is a combing operation.

['Abd-al-Haqq] When the fighting started you said that the war would last two or three days. Over 10 days have passed and the war is still continuing. How do you explain that?

[Basindwah] We have actually discovered that while we were preoccupied with our own problems the "secessionist" elements were building fortifications in sensitive and important locations in the southern governorates in preparation for the implementation of their secessionist scheme.

Anyway, what has been achieved over the past 10 days confirms that there has been great progress and that the legitimate forces are getting very close to Aden. I believe that the media have reflected that in their reports and filming proving that the "legitimate forces" are not far from Aden, some being 20 km and some 40 km away.

As the commander of al-'Amaliqah forces said, these forces are waiting for the order to advance on Aden.

Ample proof that the "rebel" forces are on their way toward surrendering is the fact that their leader announced two days ago that he was prepared to abdicate power, which means that he is preparing to flee.

['Abd-al-Haqq] Do you believe that the current fighting has eliminated any possibility of dialogue with the Socialist Party [YSP] leadership?

[Basindwah] I believe that there are some people in the YSP leadership and grass roots support unity, and we would welcome dialogue and cooperation with them provided they change their positions now before it is too late.

['Abd-al-Haqq] By leadership I meant [Vice President] 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

[Basindwah] Some leaderships are no longer acceptable, not even within the YSP. If it were not for the fact that the circumstances do not allow some of the party's leaders and grass roots to express their views, they would have taken frank and specific stands against the party's old leaderships.

['Abd-al-Haqq] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Robert Pelletreau [title as published] has stated that, in his view, the conflict cannot be settled by military means. Do you believe that statement reflects a U.S. stance regarding the Yemeni Government?

[Basindwah] Pelletreau himself said subsequently that when he made that statement he was expressing his own personal opinion, not that of the U.S. Administration.

When he said that the military solution was not the right solution and that there had to be a political solution, he meant that political victory required a political solution to consolidate it.

That is true. When we fight imperialism in any country and are triumphant against it, such victory must be crowned with a political solution.

My understanding of Pelletreau's statement is that he did not mean that the legitimate forces would not be able to score a military victory, but he was emphasizing the need for the military victory to be followed by a political solution. That stems from the American view of unity as they experienced it during the war between the northern and southern states. But I believe that the situation in Yemen is different. There are no southerners and northerners but only Yemenis divided by imperialism and the rule of the imams, Yemenis who can only be distinguished by having been born in one governorate or another.

['Abd-al-Haqq] The eight-point proposal made by the YSP leadership has been received with Arab understanding. Is there any possibility on your part of accepting all or part of that proposal.

[Basindwah] People alien to Yemen who do not know the realities of Yemen may show understanding of the proposal. At any rate, some of these proposals are obsolete and no longer valid. I believe that the best thing the "mutiny leadership" could do is surrender to constitutional legitimacy to ensure that it gets a fair trial, because I do not believe that the Yemeni people would accept elements involved in the fighting, and there is no possibility of dealing with them.

['Abd-al-Haqq] A cease-fire is a priority for all the Arab states making efforts to settle the conflict in Yemen. In what circumstances would you accept a cease-fire?

[Basindwah] We do not insist on a continuation of the shooting, but we will not agree to a cease-fire that would rehabilitate the "mutineering and renegade elements" or that would lead to the destruction of Yemeni unity. It must be understood that Yemeni unity is there to stay and no power can turn the wheel back. Yemen's unity goes on despite the suffering. Our people have a right to be united and to unite their homeland. I do not believe that this is too much to ask.

['Abd-al-Haqq] It has been claimed that the Yemeni forces in the north have received military aid from

abroad, particularly from Iraq, and that some elements have been captured. What is your reply to that?

[Basindwah] My reply to that is that a few days ago we received a memorandum from the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa saying that Aden forces arrested some sailors of two tankers held at Aden since the Gulf crisis after the sanctions were imposed on Iraq. Of course, we could do nothing to release these people, who have been presented as Iraqi elements fighting alongside government forces. That is a fabricated story and is not the first story to be fabricated by the media of the "renegade" elements. They have claimed that there are some Sudanese too, but we challenge them to produce a single one of those.

Let me give you another example of the false claims made by the mutineers' media to win the sympathy of the Arab states. Three months ago, during the political crisis, I received a message from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa asking me to work for the release of a number of Islamic Jihad members and hand them over to Egypt. He said that they were arrested in al-Marrakishah area in Abyan Governorate and that Aden's former governor, Salih Munsir al-Musayri, said that he was holding them. The Egyptian ambassador brought the message, whereupon I immediately asked brother Yahya al-Mutwakkil, the interior minister, to draft a clear memorandum to the former Aden governor asking him to hand these people over to Egypt.

The Yemeni consul [as published] indeed took the interior minister's memorandum to the former governor of Aden, only to discover that there were no such members of the said organization and that the aim of that fabricated story was to set Egypt against us.

I raised this matter during my recent meeting with President Husni Mubarak. That was confirmed in my presence by Ambassador Badr Hammam, the Egyptian assistant foreign minister, who verified that the entire story was false and that its aim was to drive a wedge between us and Egypt.

['Abd-al-Haqq] You met in Damascus with [former South Yemen President] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, and it has been claimed that you offered him a post in the Yemeni Government.

[Basindwah] That is not true. I did not offer him anything and I did not discuss any such topics with him at all.

I visited him in the company of brother Faruq al-Sahr', the Syrian foreign minister, and the reason was that he was in hospital. I had no offer to make and I had no authorization to make any offer.

Yemen

Aden Reports 'Deadly' Battle With Northern Forces

EA1705165594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 May 94

[Communique "No. 21" issued by the Ministry of Defense on 17 May; place not given]

[Text] 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday sent large numbers of barbaric forces with their vehicles into a deadly battle in a desperate attempt to break through the fortified defense of the Armed Forces. These forces, together with the masses of our people, are defending justice, freedom, and honor. This was preceded by false statements, such as those of al-Ansi and al-Iryani, that the barbaric forces advanced behind a human shield [words indistinct] into a deadly battle.

Our armed forces repulsed these forces by striking heavy blows on them on the fronts of al-Karish, Abyan, Qa'tabah, and Bayhan during which many of them surrendered, while the remnants (?fled) toward Qa'tabah, al-Rahidah, and al-Bayda with our forces still behind them. Our forces captured many arms and vehicles abandoned by the oppressors.

Aden Forces Reiterate Denial of al-'Anad Capture

EA1705174094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] An official in the Ministry of Defense denied absolutely the claims that the forces of the bloody and adventurous al-Ahmar family gang had seized the al-'Anad military base. It also denied that any unit of the forces of unity, democracy, and modernization, or any of their members, had surrendered as alleged by the military sources in Sanaa. The official source in the Ministry of Defense confirmed that the forces of unity, democracy, and modernization are waging heroic defensive battles toward Karish and al-Rahidah, and are achieving sweeping victories, about which we are not boasting as is the information media of the criminal al-Ahmar family. It is our intention, however, to confirm to our Yemeni people, the Arab public, and the world that we are waging a battle of defense against [as heard] our people's dignity, their honor, and their right to a free and dignified life.

Correspondents Asked To Witness al-Dali' Situation

EA1705190394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Yahya Muthanna, the assistant na'ib [official administrator] in al-Shu'ayb center in al-Dali District in Lahij Governorate, called on the local and foreign journalists to come to al-Shu'ayb center to see the effects of the random, barbaric shelling of the center by

the gang of the al-Ahmar family, and to give a true and natural picture at the local, Arab, and world levels for all to know the truth.

In his statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', he mocked the allegations of the al-Ahmar family gang, which claims that its forces had occupied the center. He indicated that the citizens of the center appealed to the Arab world and the world community to intervene, to treat and save the lives of those wounded due to that random shelling. He emphasized that the citizens of the center are adhering to the unity and democracy and their rejection of the dictatorship and the domination of the individual and the family over the authority, as well as adherence of the citizens of the center to the implementation of the pledge and accord document and ending the infighting and the investigation into those who started it, as well as peace and stability shall (?return) to Yemen. [sentence as heard]

Sanaa Radio Reports Downing of Helicopters

JN1805053694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] An official military spokesman at the Defense Ministry has issued the following statement:

Pursuant to our statement released yesterday [17 May] morning about units of the valiant Armed Forces in the al-'Anad-al-Hawtah sector completing their combat duties by completely destroying the military base at al-'Anad, as well as the fortifications, formations, and weapons stored there, and the seizure and transfer to Constitutional legitimacy of the balance of a variety of military hardware stacked there, and the mounting morale of the heroic knights in our Armed Forces, other duties and goals were completed in all the axes and sectors:

The forces championing unity and Constitutional legitimacy in that sector advanced to confront the secessionist, rebellious forces. They reached the al-Halilayn Subdistrict in Radfan District and inflicted heavy losses on the forces of apostasy and secession in equipment and field weapons. They seized four tanks and two BM-21 and two 130-mm howitzers, one double-barreled gun and eight trucks.

The air defense forces shot down two helicopters, capturing one pilot.

On the Abyan-Aden axis, the forces of unity, democracy, and Constitutional legitimacy continued their advance with firmness and capability. They absorbed the fire of various weapons of the forces of rebellion and secession who joined the rest of the retreating brigades facing their inevitable fate. The forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy are boldly confronting the fire and bombardment of the naval units of the forces of apostasy and secession and aborting their aggressive goals.

The valiant eagles of the Air Forces today continued the execution of their combat and offensive duties in a number of the arenas of battle, scoring direct hits against their set targets, with all the planes returning safely to base.

As the deserved end of the elements of apostasy and rebellion and secession in the great battles of the triumph of right over wrong and the defeat of all the delusions of the separatists and their rancor for the blessed Yemeni land approaches, we reiterate the call to all officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the military units that are still under the domination of the sinful secessionist forces in Aden Governorate to hasten to seize the valuable national opportunity open to them today by disobeying the aggressive instructions of the forces of rebellion and secession and disengaging themselves from the trap of the heinous crime plotted by the rebellious separatists against the homeland, the people, unity, and democracy. We call on them to return to their senses and their generous and noble posts within the ranks of the proud Armed Forces—the forces of the people and the homeland, and they will find complete understanding of their coerced conditions and circumstances. They will even receive the kind of estimation and respect worthy of the noble act of stemming the flow of the blood and protecting achievements.

Basindwah Rules Out Foreign Intervention

JN1705113794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has ruled out any foreign intervention in his country, noting, at the same time, that the current developments have aborted the national reconciliation agreement ratified between the two sides. These remarks came in an interview with Emirian magazine AL-SHURUQ to be published on Thursday [19 May].

Northern Official Discusses Crisis, Arab Mediation

NC1805062594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 18 May 94

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Malik Mansur, head of the political and foreign relations department at the Yemeni General People's Congress, in Sanaa, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] How can the Yemenis emerge from the crisis and protect their unity, resources, and achievements?

[Mansur] First, I would like to thank you for contacting us to seek reassurance about conditions in our country.

What is happening in the Yemeni arena today is the last chapter, not the beginning, of the crisis. Things were settled democratically in Yemen; the Yemeni people

elected their representatives in public elections, which were clean, as certified by the organizations that supervised them. The elections elected people's representatives to parliament, which freely elected a presidential council ...

[Abu-al-Majd interrupts] We do not want to discuss the past. We are trying to find a solution that stops the bloodletting. How can we do that?

[Mansur] Yes, this is possible. It is what we hope and work for. No rational or civilized person would choose war. We neither opted to fight nor sought to wage a war. But we welcome any peaceful initiative in the context of recognizing constitutional legitimacy.

[Abu-al-Majd] You say you welcome any peaceful settlement. The Arab League put forward a peaceful settlement to end the bloodshed. You reportedly did not accept that initiative. Why?

[Mansur] We accept no mediation based on the idea that there are two equal parties in the arena. If a mediation effort admits that there is a legitimate government based on parliament and the Constitution and that seeks to reconcile parties, it is welcome to that.

[Abu-al-Majd] But some say the military option will take time. So the bloodletting will continue. Even if the situation is settled in your favor militarily, this will create hatred in hearts and trigger more bloodletting.

[Mansur] We are optimistic. We expect the future to be bright and to bring much good for the Yemeni people, the neighboring region, and the entire Arab people. We do not think the future will be one of vengeance and bloodletting. No wise man chooses war as an approach.

[Abu-al-Majd] Why do you not sit with them now through Arab mediation—by the Arab League, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, or others—to make things clearer and stop the bloodshed?

[Mansur] This is a wise thought. That is exactly what we did. We have sat with them 1,001 times since the beginning of the crisis. We got together in Jordan in the presence of His Majesty King Husayn and we signed a document named the Pledge and Accord Document ...

[Abu-al-Majd interrupts] Why do you not try again one last time?

[Mansur] Only an irrational person rejects reconciliation. But man reconciles with people who accept reconciliation.

[Abu-al-Majd] But the Socialist Party people say they accept reconciliation. Do we understand from this that you have chosen the military option and, if so, why do you send envoys to Arab states?

[Mansur] I would like to say that a political decision is delaying the entry of the legitimate army to Aden. The brother president does not want to devastate Aden, because he loves its people and sympathizes with them. That is why he might throw a siege around it. The envoys being sent to Arab leaders are part of bilateral consultations; they brief our brothers on the situation in our country.

[Abu-al-Majd] Some say unity cannot be imposed by the force of weapons.

[Mansur] This is true. Our unity was established peacefully by consensus and consent on 22 May 1990.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you think the Pledge and Accord Document can still guarantee the continuation of unity after resorting to the military option?

[Mansur] The document retains the necessary elements for success and survival although it needs to be developed and reviewed in light of new developments.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you.

[Mansur] Thank you.

Salih Speaks to Saudi Monarch, UAE President

JN1805054794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] A telephone conversation was held yesterday evening between Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his brother His Majesty King Fahad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and custodian of the two holy mosques. They talked about current developments in our country, issues of shared interest, and brotherly ties between the two brotherly countries.

Also yesterday evening, a telephone conversation was held between Presidential Council Chairman Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the brotherly United Arab Emirates [UAE]. They reviewed Yemeni developments and ties between the two brotherly countries.

Prime Minister al-'Attas Talks With U.S. Official

EA1805092094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 18 May 1994

[Text] Council of Ministers Chairman Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas met Mr. Pelletreau, the Assistant State Secretary for Near East Affairs at the U.S. State Department yesterday. They discussed the grave developments in our country and the continued barbaric attacks led by the military leadership in control in Sanaa against the people of the southern and eastern provinces.

Prime Minister al-'Attas reviewed the peace initiative proposed by the Yemeni Socialist Party and the principles for national salvation accord proposed by the nationalist forces which were both rejected along with other political initiatives by the leadership in Sanaa.

The U.S. official expressed the U.S. Administration's satisfaction with and welcome of this initiative stressing his country's keen interest in stopping the war. He pointed out that whatever the result of the war is, it cannot be a solution to the current political problems. It will rather lead to more ruin, destruction, and victims and will create hatred and bitterness and expose the union to danger.

Salih: Opponents Must Surrender or Go Into Exile

NC1705165594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, Arab League envoy to Yemen and Arab League assistant secretary general for military affairs, and members of his delegation returned to Cairo this afternoon following a visit of several days to Yemen.

During the visit, the Arab League delegation met with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and a number of Yemeni leaders in a bid to stop the bloodshed in Yemen.

In his arrival statement at Cairo airport, Bayraqdar said that he had conveyed to the Yemeni president the Arab League's appeal to end the fighting and to begin a dialogue. He said that the Arab League delegation also met with Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Alfi and members of the Presidential Council and reiterated the Arab League's concern for the consequences if the fighting continues. The delegation urged the two sides to halt fighting.

Bayraqdar pointed out that the officials in Sanaa had explained to him the causes that led to the outbreak of fighting, the efforts made by President Salih before the war, and the current circumstances. He said that he conveyed a message from the Arab League secretary general to the Yemeni president, urging him to end the fighting and to pave the way for dialogue.

The Arab League envoy noted the results of his talks with the Yemeni president showed that Salih cannot accept a cease-fire for the time being, particularly after the clashes and fighting between the two armed forces. Bayraqdar said that the Yemeni president told him halting the fighting is contingent upon several conditions, including the recognition of the constitutional legitimacy, the safeguarding of the Yemeni peoples' unity and land, the safeguarding of the unity of the army, and the merger of the army. The Yemeni president, according to the Arab League envoy, stressed that a cessation of fighting is currently ruled out unless those responsible for it are arrested, including 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the prime minister, and eight leading members of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

In his statement, Bayraqdar said that the Yemeni president maintained that he will not accept any Arab initiative, not even by the Arab League, until the perpetrators, whether secessionists or others, are identified. Therefore, the Arab governments must deal with the constitutional Yemeni Government.

The Arab League assistant secretary general said that during the lengthy talks, the Yemeni president stressed that either the perpetrators surrender and stand trial so that those responsible for the outbreak of the events are identified, or they leave Aden for any Arab or foreign country as they wish.

The Yemeni president again expressed his thanks to the Arab League secretary general and the League Council for their good offices.

Al-Bid Says Salih Seeks 'Fundamentalist' State

JN1805091094 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 16-22 May 94 pp 23, 24

[Report by 'Afaf Zayn]

[Excerpts] London—As 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress and Presidential Council member, was telling journalists in Sanaa 9 May that fighting had stopped at all axes in the Abyan Governorate in the south of the country and that the military situation had been decided in favor of pro-government forces "poised to complete their tasks by entering Aden within 48 hours", 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] was telling AL-WASAT on the line from his Aden residence that "they will enter Aden over our dead bodies." He was emphatic that the Army brigades in what used to be known as Southern Yemen before the merger "would soon shift from their defensive to an offensive posture," after the intensive bombing had failed to achieve its objectives.

Contradicting 'Abd-al-Ghani's contention that the fighting "was about to be settled in favor of the legal forces against the separatists in the YSP, al-Bid told AL-WASAT "the military situation" had not been decided in favor of the forces under the man (President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih) who made the insane decision to set off the explosion. Arab and world opinion can now better judge the kind of practices we have endured over the three and one-half years that the merger lasted. He drew a parallel between "the military option President Salih had been planning before the signing of the accord document in Amman and the illegal appointments and dismissals and Saddam Husayn's decisions following the invasion of Kwuait and his dismissal and replacement of the Kuwaiti government." [passage omitted]

With escalating hostilities, the political situation in Sanaa and Aden continues to be ambiguous. According to Salim Salih Muhammad, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih opted for the military option once he realized that under a regime of political pluralism following 14 years of totalitarian rule, he had lost many of his privileges. Driven by a tribal mentality, he put the fate of the country on the line, equating himself with the state and

the army. It is this kind of mentality that destroyed the union. His lending his ear to certain YSP officials, who were closer to his way of thinking since the proclamation of unity, propels the "conspiracy theory". That conclusion is echoed by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who says: "Yes, there is a conspiracy."

What does this conspiracy seek to achieve? Al-Bid replies that the aim is to set up in the region a theocratic entity built on the alliance between the military and the fundamenalist establishments. "It is the military fundamentalist state of Sudan, along the lines of which other such regimes are being planned," asserts al-Bid. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Begins Military Inspection Tour in East

EA1705222594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, proceeded on an inspection tour of military units this morning in the eastern area, during which he met military and political leaders. The military forces of unity and democracy there are conducting decisive military confrontations with the forces of the separatist gang of the al-Ahmar clan.

A responsible source at the political bureau has told the Yemeni news agency, SABA', that brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid made the tour in implementation of the resolution adopted by the political bureau that party members and leaders should tour the various axes following 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's rejection of all the national, Arab, and international initiatives and appeals to stop the bloody war he declared against the Yemeni people. Salih is targeting the southern and eastern governorates, thereby causing the destruction of towns, villages, and installations, violating homes and causing the deaths of citizens in the areas his forces have entered. This leaves the forces of unity and democracy with no alternative but to confront those forces, which have transformed unity into a bloody struggle. Full historic responsibility is borne by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for this disaster being suffered by Yemen and its sons. It was he who during these blessed days decided to transform the joy of the sons of the Yemen attending the blessed id al-Adha and the fourth anniversary of unity on 22 May into days of grief.

Opposition Announces Salvation Initiative

EA1705141794 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] In these critical and grave moments in the history of our people in which towns and villages are destroyed, lives lost, children orphaned, women widowed, and the hopes and aspirations of our people for unity, security, stability, and progress sacrificed, and when full blows are being dealt to democracy with the aim of enshrining the hegemony of forces hostile to the people and their aspirations to build modern Yemen in the light of the documents of pledge and accord, the patriotic opposition bloc announced a salvation initiative on 9 May, which is summarized here as follows:

1. The immediate cessation of all war operations.
2. The cancellation of all government institutions because of their inability to solve the crisis and to prevent the catastrophe.
3. To speed up the formation of a national salvation government so as to enable it to save the country from the deep abyss.
4. The salvation government is to undertake the application of the pledge and accord document which has won national consensus, a matter that is unprecedented in the life of our people.
5. The salvation government is to undertake the investigation and exposure of those who caused the crime of in-fighting and to present them for trial.
6. To oppose any side which refuses this initiative which seeks to save our people and our country and to end this destruction.

The dialogue commission outside the coalition announced its initiative on 30 April which is summarized in the cancellation of the institutions of the existing authority and the formation of a national salvation government. This followed the events of 'Imran which led to this overall disaster. This was then followed by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] initiative on 12 May, when it stated its agreement with and acceptance of the initiative of the patriotic opposition bloc, and responded to it.

Consequently, any opposition or rejection of these initiatives must be considered as opposition to the Yemeni national consensus. The patriotic and democratic forces represented by the political parties and organizations which signed this declaration defined the bases of their moves as cooperation and standing in one trench to achieve those patriotic initiatives which seek to end the bloodshed and the machinery destroying our people, their unity, and land. They continue to hope that reason and Yemeni wisdom will prevail and that all honorable people will rally to this initiative throughout Yemen, in all political organizations, as well as the older men of reason in the parties of the authority which has not responded to the initiative of the patriotic national opposition.

These patriotic forces represent by this responsible stand a basis for a responsible patriotic and democratic alliance relying on the pledge and accord document to continue the struggle to save the homeland from the destructive war, to preserve unity, and to build a modern state on the basis of the following concepts and commitments:

1. The objective we are striving to achieve is the implementation of the pledge and accord document.

2. The machinery to implement the document has already been stated in the initiative of the patriotic opposition bloc on 9 May and the dialogue commission

outside the coalition on 30 April, and the YSP through its initiative of 12 May, namely a national salvation government which reflects national unity and widespread participation in the building of the nation on the foundations of democracy as a firm option from which there can be no retreat.

3. We are committed to the pledge and accord document and to work for its implementation with all honorable and wise people, wherever we are able to do so in the land of Yemen.

4. We are irrevocably committed to democracy based on multipartyism and peaceful alternation of authority.

5. We all pledge and are committed, as far as we are able, to condemn any manifestations of authoritarianism in government or any manifestations by an individual, party or group of attempts to control the instruments of authority anywhere in Yemen.

6. We pledge and are committed to the equality of opportunity in political action without the tyranny of one group over another or of one region over another region or of one party over others. Government institutions, resources, and tools should not be run for the benefit of any particular group, party or tribe.

7. Opportunity should be made available to all national and capable patriotic cadres regardless of their party or regional affiliation in all fields and at all levels.

8. The homeland belongs to all. All are partners in both good and bad times. The responsibility for its protection, defense, the safety of its sons and ending this catastrophe, belongs to all. All political forces committed to this national salvation initiative document are equal in rights and duties.

9. We are all committed to cooperating in order to eliminate the vestiges of the far and near past, to soothe the wounds and to eliminate these vestiges from people's minds through national, historic reconciliation which would restore everyone's rights, guarantee justice and equality, and sow the seeds of love and brotherhood.

10. To work for the elimination of the effects of division in people's minds through parity in communication, balancing of interests between groups, governorates and provinces, and the rejection of all attempts to sow hatred and malice. We must rise above any narrow regional, sectarian, divisive or partisan tendencies.

11. We do not support those who advocate war, infighting, division or secession. However, we shall confront with all honorable people the mentality which desires the continuation of killings and destruction and refuses to silence its guns.

The continuation of the [word indistinct] stubborn refusal to stop the massacres and destruction will increase our determination to mobilize all the energies of our people to confront the perpetrators of the catastrophe and the destructive war. The democratic forces are capable of doing this with reason, wisdom, and real democratic work and by the application of parity in communication and equilibrium which will take care of all the sons of our people.

12. On the basis of commitment by us all to the pledge and accord document, the document of national consensus, and on the basis of the fact that we constitute a foundation for an extensive, democratic and national alliance, we all agree to form joint machineries which will lead, manage, and supervise all affairs, relations, actions and activities. None of us will take a unilateral decision. The proper machineries for this will be formed to represent all and to lead all activities with the aim of attaining a government of national salvation and the implementation of the pledge and accord document.

The political parties and organizations signing this agreement warn of the consequences of ignoring this agreement which is aimed at saving the homeland and safeguarding the land and people of Yemen. It is a natural culmination of all previous political initiatives.

We appeal to the rest of the political parties and organizations participating in the dialogue commission to play their full role by taking part in all the machineries of this agreement. God knows our intentions.

Signed by: The Patriotic Opposition Bloc [al-Takattul al-Watani lil-Mu'aradah), the Nasirite Unionist Popular Organization [al-Tanzim al-Wahdawi al-Sha'bi al-Nasiri], the Party of the League of the Sons of Yemen, [Hizb Rabitat Abna al-Yaman, RAY], the Union of the Patriotic Forces [Ittihad al-Quwa al-Sha'biyah], the Yemeni Unionist Alliance Party [Hizb al-Tajjamu al-Wahdawi al-Yamani], the Party of Rights [Hizb al-Haqq], the YSP [al-Hizb al-Ishtiraki al-Yamani].

ICRC Reaches Agreement on Care for War Captives

EA1505191194 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] A statement issued by the Cairo office of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] says that the committee has reached agreements providing for visiting fighters detained by both sides in the dispute. The statement recalled that the committee had already visited a number of captives in Aden. It stressed that representatives of the Red Cross were continuing their efforts to supply medical organizations with basic supplies for the treatment of the war victims.

Commentary: Unity in Yemen 'Irrevocable'

JN1505211494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1218 GMT 15 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The destiny of and the belief in Yemeni unity continues to capture the feelings of Yemenis. It is an irrevocable fate. It is an objective we achieved after

struggle and a long wait. The objective of unity has been realized and has achieved victory. It is now becoming firm and strong, deeply rooted in hearts and the land. Unity is spreading through time. How can we say no, while we watch the unionist heroes from the forces of unity and legitimacy brand unity with sweat, effort, steadfastness, and the unionists' march forward? We see the unionist citizens welcoming them with joy and support, united with them in all love and appreciation, and with all joy and belief in unity. We witnessed this in al-Dali', Abyan, Lahij, and other places. They are scenes that prove a belief in unity and a concern about it continuing, regardless of sacrifices and no matter how much the gangs of apostasy and secession try to harm it or hide from its overwhelming light in the burrows of apostasy, the dens of secession, and the labyrinths of their wicked conspiracy.

With the amazing and delightful scenes that shine with the brightness of unity and love for it and faith in it, we hear support and see the rallying around Constitutional legitimacy and unionist leadership. We hear it, with satisfaction and peace of mind, in the cable from the people of al-Dali' to President Leader Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. This cable disproves and silences all claims by the horns of apostasy and secession and puts their feet back in their mouths. The cable throws a stone at the secessionists and defies the evils of the secessionists. It is a cable that radiates with a right that cannot be avoided. It follows the road that cannot be changed and seeks to achieve the same objective we have.

Perhaps what makes the issue deeper and clearer are the statements by the citizens to the Yemeni Television cameras, expressing their joy about the defeat of the positions of apostasy, removing the traces of secession, destroying the dens of partitioning, and defeating the remnants of the losing secessionist conspiracy, whose price has been paid.

The citizens' words express their belief in unity and their adherence to it as an objective, a fate, and a hope that all the good people of Yemen sought to achieve. There is no argument that the leadership that believes in Yemeni unity and is the representative of Constitutional legitimacy expressed the hopes of the citizens and translated the feelings of all the people. It did so when President Leader Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed forces, instructed the minister of defense to destroy all the positions that are linked to partitioning, or show signs of it, and to erase all traces of division and separation between the one Yemeni land and the one people. Yes, they are instructions that express the feelings of every Yemeni, translates his will and shows his fate. Therefore, the unionist forces along with the unionist masses in all areas embarked on destroying all these traces based on Salih's instructions. They translated these instruction into a tangible reality, out of their faith that this is right and is what the people want. All signs, events, actions, stands, and words show without any doubt that unity is rooted in the depths of the hearts and land, and is spreading through time. It will continue to reap its benefits everywhere and at all times—benefits that will not stop. The people will enjoy its benefits every time and will persistently defend its generosity in any circumstance.

How can we say no, when unity is the greater objective and the irrevocable fate? It is the dream we achieved through sacrifices and struggle and through the perseverance and faith of the heroic men—men who fulfilled what they had promised. They achieved the promise and lived up to the pledge, They gave birth to unity for all Yemen from the depths of time on the great day of 22 May. Here are the sons of all Yemen continuing to care for, protect, and defend it with all love, sincerity, faith and insistence, despite the gangs of apostasy and secession.

Therefore, we are sure that the parasites of the gangs of secessionism will be uprooted from the land, God willing. Moreover, the apostasy will be disintegrated by the brightness of the sun of unity. God is with right and its people and with unity and those who protect it. God supports those who are sincere and faithful, defeats the liars and renegades, and destroys those who defy God's will and deviate from the masses' consensus.

Seest thou not how God sets forth a parable? A goodly word like a goodly tree whose root is firmly fixed and its branches reach to the heavens. It brings forth its fruit at all times, by the leave of its lord. So God sets forth parables for men, in order that they may receive admonition. And the parable of an evil word is that of an evil tree. It is torn up by the root from the surface of the Earth. It has no stability. God will establish in strength those who believe, with the word that stands firm, in this world and in the hereafter; but God will leave, to stray, those who do wrong; God does what he wills. [Koranic verse]

Commentary Says 'Gang' 'Stage-Managed' Crisis

JN1505194994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 15 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Constitutional legitimacy's military is the property of the immortal Republic of Yemen; it is the military of unified Yemen; it is the military that has been immunized by loyalty to God, the homeland, and the revolution. As such, the Army is the party to which our Yemeni masses naturally turn when they seek to hasten the inevitable end of the cheap separatists' saga, led by the war criminal 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his renegade, perfidious gang.

That hope is reflected by the worthy citizens in our southern governorates rallying behind the army of legality, democracy, and unity. That all-important moral support has enabled our valiant Army to fulfill its

patriotic duties with remarkable success and efficiency and score successive victories over the forces of apostasy and secession and pursue the sacred advance on the remnants of apostasy, perfidy, and treachery.

The unsavory rumors spread by the gang of secession within the Socialist Party about the army of legality, unity, and democracy furnish eloquent proof of the panic with which it reacted to the support the victorious Republic of Yemen's military enjoys with the public. It is not surprising that our great Yemeni people should stand shoulder to shoulder with the courageous protectors of the homeland as they defend the sanctities of the Yemeni homeland. Just as the Yemeni people displayed exemplary sacrifice in defeating their enemy in conjunction with the military, they are now striving to rout the remnants of the enemies of legality, unity, and democracy.

This courageous pro-Army and pro-unity posture on the part of our determined people has dealt a stinging blow to the gang of apostasy and secession. It was natural that the people should take such a stand, given the gang's criminal bloody record.

Certain facts have now come to light and may be summed up as follows:

The personnel of the Republic of Yemen's military, now engaging the secessionist gang in battle for the cause of legality and unity and democracy, hail from all the Republic's governorates, without exception. Thus, every inch of Yemeni territory is a trust held by all members of the Armed Forces. A Yemeni views every Yemeni drop of blood that runs through the veins of fellow Yemenis as if it were his own.

The Republic of Yemen's military has earned the support of the entire population of the country by its loyalty to God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity.

Our enlightened and vigilant people are now certain that the leaders of secession in the Socialist Party stage-managed the crisis to advance their goal of scuttling the union of the country and then reinstating their terrible, totalitarian regime in the south.

Monitoring the evolving crisis from the beginning, Yemenis are now certain beyond a shadow of doubt that the secessionist gang had been planning for secession for quite some time. Toward that end, they had detached some military units from the Army of the Yemeni Republic. With their rallying cries of power or death, secession or war, they had also stacked weapons and military hardware in homes and warehouses and even with some street hawkers.

That was enough [word indistinct] all people with their heroic Army that has proved its true affiliation to a united Yemen, thus haunting the secessionists, who are now spreading ludicrous rumors to undercut the cohesion between the people and the Army as they push ahead with the firmness of believers to uphold the cause of unity, democracy, and legality and hunt down the adventurous killers—the gang of apostasy and secession, who are now having to endure the disgrace of defeat. Yemen's unity shall remain a crown on the heads of our worthy citizens and their victorious army, God willing.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets UN Security Council Members

JN1705140894 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] New York, May 17, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier Mr. Tariq 'Aziz today held a series of meetings with the ambassadors of Oman, Djibouti, Pakistan, Nigeria and Rwanda, now members of the Security Council.

Mr. 'Aziz also met the ambassadors of New Zealand, Argentina, Spain and Czech [as received].

The Security Council is scheduled to conduct its consultations over the attitude toward the embargo imposed on Iraq today, Tuesday.

UN Envoy: Only U.S. Rejects Lifting of Embargo

JN1705142094 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] New York, May 17, INA—Several international dignitaries now visiting the United Nations called for the lifting of the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

Speaking at a press conference here today, the dignitaries called for the immediate lifting of the embargo and ending the sufferings of the Iraqi people. They submitted a written appeal to the UN secretary general urging the Security Council to implement Article 22 of its Resolution 687 which provide for the lifting of the embargo after Iraq's compliance to its obligations.

Among the dignitaries that had taken part in the press conference were 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat member of the Jordanian House of Notables, Mr. Baham Singh, chairman of the Non-Aligned Youth Conference, the former ambassador of Mexico, Canadian professor 'Abd-al-Haq Abu-Bakr, Prof. Marta Mandavalo of Athens Univesity and the Iraqi Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Mr. Nizar Hamdun.

Replying to questions put by journalists, Mr. Hamdun said the American Administration is the only party that rejects the implementation of provisions of the Security Council resolutions adding that Iraq has implemented all what concerns provisions of the weapons section of Resolution 687. Iraq's demand to lift the embargo falls within the provisions of that resolution itself.

The Iraqi ambassador said Iraq rejects the limited selling of its oil and having supervisors over the distribution of food materials.

The Arab and Iraqi community in New York assembled here on Monday under the banner of Iraq and denounced the perpetuation of the economic embargo.

Paper Views Pelletreau Remarks on Iraqi Threat

JN1805110694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 May 94 p 1

[Article by Taha al-Basri: "Pelletreau's Allegations"]

[Text] It has become obvious to political observers that the U.S. Administration's repetition of the discordant tune that Iraq is still threatening the Gulf states and that it has not abandoned its ambitions to dominate the region is backed by Zionist and Masonic elements which use people like Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for foreign affairs; Anthony Lake, Martin Indyk, and others, as tools which they manipulate whenever they want to create a state of tension in the region that will ultimately serve U.S. and Zionist interests.

It is clear that Pelletreau's statements during his current tour of the Gulf about the possibility of Iraqi rearmament are intended to scare the Gulf states and to guarantee continued U.S. domination of these states, the conclusion of more arms deals with them, and therefore the gradual plundering of their wealth.

This is because Pelletreau and the others know very well that Iraq, which fought grinding battles in the confrontation against Iranian aggression for eight years, is not an element of threat to the Arab Gulf states or to the security of the region, but is a basic factor for ensuring the requirements of security and stability for the region, as proven in the past when Iraq protected, with the blood of its sons, the Arab Gulf states from the greed and evils of expansionist Iranian policy. Were it not for that brave Iraqi stand, these states would be in a different situation today. Therefore, drawing a parallel between Iraq and Iran today is a clear twisting of historical facts.

By his allegations, Pelletreau only tries to tell and convince the Gulf states that they are in continuous need of U.S. protection through the conclusion of joint defense pacts and the purchase of surplus arms from U.S. arsenals, which they do not need to defend their security.

This is because what is threatening the Gulf is not Iraq but the U.S. presence, which is continuously seeking only its interests, without being concerned about any other interests, as past experiences have proven in various parts of the world. The United States will definitely leave the region once it finds that its interests no longer require its continuous presence in it, as has happened in several cases.

It is natural for Pelletreau not to warn the states of the region about the real danger threatening them, namely, the danger of the expansionist regimes the United States itself has helped create, as well as the Zionist danger, which is directed not only against them, but against all the countries of the Arab nation. This is because Pelletreau is manipulated by his Zionist overlords as one of its obedient tools.

Pelletreau ignores that real danger and frightens the Arab Gulf states with an imaginary danger he claims to be coming from Iraq.

We must not forget that the U.S. Administration always creates a false uproar whenever the UN Security Council is about to review the unfair blockade on Iraq. The United States is determined to shuffle the cards and

create tension this time, having realized that the initiative is no longer solely in its hands, as was the case during the previous review.

It is no secret to anyone that the motives behind such U.S. allegations are not to achieve security and stability in the region, but to plunder its oil resources and serve Zionist aims.

The U.S. Administration was behind the ignition of the Iran-Iraq War, the arrival of Khomeyni and the supply of arms to his regime. The Irangate scandal is only one piece of evidence branding the United States with collusion.

The United States, and no one else, creates terrorist regimes to disturb security and stability so it can deploy its forces and fleets, occupy the region, and violate all international conventions and norms as well as human rights which it falsely claims to uphold.

So, it is not strange for statements to be released from time to time by dirty characters such as Pelletreau, Lake, and Indyk who, as our Arab people know, are just tools manipulated by Zionism and Freemasonry whenever they wish.

Clinton Urged To 'Cast Aside Inheritance' of Bush

JN1605074994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says the people of Iraq have succeeded in holding their ground and resisting all attempts to fragment them and send them into oblivion. The Iraqis achieved this thanks to the inspiration they derived from their long history and from their historic leader Saddam Husayn, who imparted to them a growing resolve to go on living, to progress, and to preserve their sovereignty and dignity despite the destruction, blockade, plotting, and intervention.

In an article today, the paper, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: The aggressive, conspiratorial, and interventionist U.S. policy against Iraq has clearly ended in failure. The military aggression has not given the White House control over Iraq's will and decisionmaking, nor has Iraq weakened from the destruction, hunger, and chaos.

The paper wonders about the U.S. interest in insisting on following George Bush's policy against Iraq. What political and economic gains are there in this policy for the United States? This policy has drawn a blank on the ground and has resulted in a great burden for the United States, considering the political and moral condemnation that has smeared the U.S. reputation.

The paper adds: U.S. President Bill Clinton has the right to review facts, away from the positions of the defeated Bush. This is because Iraq is here to stay, with its will, leadership, and resolve. Iraq has finished rebuilding what was destroyed by the U.S.-Atlantic aggression and has even introduced improvements to it.

The paper points out that Bill Clinton, who inherited the U.S. Administration, can cast aside the inheritance of Bush's aggression and hostility to Iraq, even though Clinton has pursued Bush's policy for some time, committed aggression against Iraq, and maintained the blockade.

The paper concludes that it is the right of the U.S. President to brag about opposing the U.S. war against Vietnam. He also has the right to say that he inherited the U.S. intervention in Somalia. He was the one who decided to withdraw U.S. troops from Somalia. Somali sacrifices and resolve also contributed to the withdrawal decision.

Oil Said Sold With Knowledge of 'U.S. Intelligence'

NC1805105894 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 9 May 94 p 8

[Text] Merchants from Gulf countries are marketing Iraqi oil by giving false information about its origin. The oil is being sold on international markets at a price considerably lower than that recommended by OPEC. The sale of Iraqi oil, which is taking place with the knowledge of U.S. intelligence, aims to force down the price of oil and give constant signals [isharat da'imah] to Baghdad.

Baghdad Mayor Says Embargo Endangers Environment

JN1605142094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—Baghdad Mayor Tahir Muhammad Hassun has stated that the assistance offered by specialised health, environment, and human rights organizations and agencies has not improved the environment situation in Baghdad and has not remedied the increasing shortage suffered by the Baghdad municipality services.

At a news conference attended by local, Arab, and foreign correspondents as well as the INA correspondent, the Baghdad mayor said that these organizations have provided the Baghdad municipality departments with only 5 percent of what they direly needed in the various services sectors.

The Baghdad mayor reviewed the direct impact the continued imposition of the unjust embargo has had on Iraq and on Baghdad in particular, especially the suspension of work in many Baghdad city development projects, the piling of garbage in various quarters of the city in view of the shortages experienced by the municipality in the human and mechanical field since the specialized machinery has come down from 800 to 300, with most of these out of order.

He explained that 500 to 700 tonnes of garbage are daily left on the streets. This means more than 20,000 tonnes a month. He said that the shortage experienced by the various municipality services is increasing and that the continued piling of garbage on the streets will lead to the spread of many infectious diseases.

Tahir Muhammad Hassun warned against the impending danger that threatens the individual and the environment in Baghdad as a result of the spread of diseases stemming from pollution, and the overflowing of the sewerage system and how this will cause the death of thousands of citizens.

The news conference was attended by the deputy mayor and the municipality dpartments' directors.

Baghdad Protests Continuing Airspace 'Violations'

Informs Arab League of 1-9 May Flights

JN1505124694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers are continuing to provide facilities for U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace, which seriously threatens Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter he addressed yesterday to the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said that the aircraft violated Iraq's airspace 1-9 May after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. During this period they carried out 355 hostile air sorties.

The Iraqi permanent representative attached to his letter a list detailing these violations.

Informs UN of 1-10 May Flights

JN1505130994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Iraq has once again protested to the United Nations against U.S. aircraft continuing to violate Iraq's airspace for purposes of provocation and surveillance.

In a memorandum he sent to the UN Secretary General yesterday, Iraq's permanent UN representative said these aircraft violated Iraq's airspace and carried out 377 hostile air sorties from 1-10 May.

Iraq's permanent UN representative requested that the memorandum be distributed as a Security Council document.

UN Warns Kurds More Fighting May Affect Aid

NC1705170994 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 17 May 94

[By Tolle Aram]

[Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq, May 17 (AFP)—The United Nations has warned the two main rival Kurdish leaders in northern Iraq that any more fighting between their supporters could jeopardise international aid, a UN official told AFP Tuesday [17 May].

UN area security coordinator Stafford Clarry delivered the warning Monday to Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, who lead respectively the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK].

One hundred people at least were killed in heavy fighting between the KDP and the PUK that erupted early this month and ended a week ago.

Barzani and Talabani "should realise that the international community has not chosen to remain in Iraqi Kurdistan .. so they can engage in armed conflict among themselves," read Clarry's warning.

The message, a copy of which was given to AFP, stressed that the UN presence aims at providing the Kurds with "protection against an external threat", in a reference to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's government.

The KDP and the PUK have controlled a major part of northern Iraq since an uprising following the February 1991 defeat of Iraq in the Gulf war.

The US and its allies imposed an air-exclusion zone over northern Iraq to keep out Iraq warplanes and protect the Kurds.

Clarry, an American, said the latest clashes will seriously affect the goodwill of donor countries who financially support the Kurds.

He also said the clashes have stopped or seriously disrupted the UN aid programs, including water supplies to villages, food distribution and medical services.

Most of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating in Kurdistan had to stop their activities during the fighting, although they were pressing ahead with existing programs.

The clashes however "may make it difficult to initiate new programs," said Save the Children field director Bronwen Lewis, a Briton.

The fighting, which the PUK said was triggered by a personal dispute, has already had a negative impact on the German NGOs, whose coordination and support office in Shaqlawa town was ransacked and its Kurdish guards arrested.

The head of the office, Eberhard Walde, said he was recalled back to Germany.

Peres Terms 'Arafat Remarks 'Unfounded,' 'Amazing'

TA1705143994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has termed unfounded the remarks 'Arafat made about a letter he had received from the Israeli Government regarding the future of Jerusalem. Minister Peres also said that 'Arafat's statement about the need to continue jihad is amazing and totally unacceptable. Israel will examine what exactly 'Arafat said and will respond in kind. Minister Peres made these remarks to our correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Beilin Says 'Arafat's Remarks 'Ridiculous'

TA1805100494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 18 May 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, place not given, by Rafi Rosenfeld from the "It Is All Talk" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Rosenfeld] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Rosenfeld] 'Arafat says in a recording that there is a secret document containing an Israeli pledge to discuss the status of Jerusalem within three years of the interim arrangement. And yet, despite the commotion which followed the report, his remarks do not disclose anything.

[Beilin] It is a joke. There is a non-secret document, which says something in this spirit.

[Rosenfeld] The Declaration of Principles, I believe.

[Beilin] Yes. I heard the tape, and it is quite silly. It may be okay for a mosque speech, but I would not advise you to take it seriously in terms of the truth, particularly since the letter story is a joke. The Oslo agreement states that within two years at most—not three, he confused his dates there—we should start negotiations, with Jerusalem as one of the issues on the agenda.

[Rosenfeld] Let us now address another aspect of the tape—the call for jihad. The prime minister said: If 'Arafat has indeed called for jihad, the future of the peace process is in doubt. What does he mean, if 'Arafat indeed called for jihad? You heard the tape, as we all have, and he did call for jihad.

[Beilin] Yes, he said: We have to continue the jihad, it is a matter for you more than us, and to prove my point, I even asked for a letter to support it. What can I tell you? Those who always attached great significance to 'Arafat's pronouncements, will take a very grave view of this. It is not that I am taking it lightly, but I have never attached great significance to his utterances. I think his remarks about jihad will discredit him in public opinion throughout the world. These remarks will not be able to stop the negotiations, but they are definitely not something we can shrug off, and they will cost 'Arafat more than anyone else.

[Rosenfeld] The question is whether we will not pay with victims.

[Beilin] No, I do not think an actual call for jihad against Israel was made in South Africa. I think his entire speech there was ridiculous, and this part of the speech looks ridiculous to me, too. I do not perceive any change in 'Arafat's policy. I will see it as a violation of the agreement if, God forbid, actual orders to attack Israel or to disregard some clauses of the agreement are given, or if elements connected with 'Arafat carry out terrorist operations. That would definitely be a grave violation of the agreement, and if it happens, the agreement will have no future. [passage omitted]

[Rosenfeld] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, Minister Shulamit Aloni told our correspondent this morning that perhaps we should look for new partners.

[Beilin] I am all for it. If she manages to find new partners, I am certain she will inform me, too, and then we will launch negotiations with the new partners.

[Rosenfeld] In other words, you are saying that past experience shows there are no other partners.

[Beilin] There are none, but if someone can find a partner better than 'Arafat, I will not fight for 'Arafat's right to continue negotiating with us at any cost. I think we would all be happy if we could conduct negotiations with someone who could both represent the Palestinian people and present stands that are more compatible with ours. I regret to say I do not know of any such person. We waited for 26 years, and thank God, we are now leaving Gaza, we are beginning the peace process, and we are to have an entirely different Middle East in spite of the foolish things 'Arafat occasionally says. It is no use: Those who would like to use his utterances to stop the negotiations, are bound to fail. [passage omitted]

Aloni Terms 'Arafat Call for Jihad 'Ludicrous'

TA1805060994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Minister Shulamit Aloni says 'Arafat's call for jihad against Israel is ludicrous. In her opinion, his remarks are an extravaganza stemming from profound frustration at having achieved less than he had wanted, or perhaps from a dread of coping with reality while living in fantasy.

Interviewed by a Qol Yisra'el correspondent this morning, Minister Aloni said the peace process would continue, and even 'Arafat would not be able to jeopardize it, because the Palestinian people want peace. If he continues daydreaming and does not withdraw his remarks, Israel may take time out and possibly pursue

negotiations with other members of the Palestinian leadership—serious, level-headed people representing the Palestinian people, with whom we have become acquainted in the course of the negotiations.

NRP Files No-Confidence on 'Arafat Remarks

TA1705170294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by Hayim Hecht—recorded]

[Text] [Hecht] One hour after Qol Yisra'el carried the story on 'Arafat's address, a motion of no-confidence in the government was filed with the Knesset secretariat. Yitzhaq Levi, National Religious Party [NRP] secretary general, said: If you want to know the truth, do not trust the Israeli Government; listen to 'Arafat's remarks. The NRP faction held a special meeting and decided to file a motion of no confidence.

Tzomet Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Peled said that he exposed the fact that the Cairo agreements include five secret addenda three weeks ago. They said I am mad, Peled said. The five addenda, according to Peled, refer to: the Palestinian right of return; an expansion of the Palestinian police force; granting the autonomy a consular status in Jerusalem; a festive ceremony by 'Arafat and his guards in Jerusalem; and a discussion of Jerusalem's final status.

[Peled] And Rabin never presented this to the public. Therefore, I believe this is a total fraud.

[Hecht] Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav demands that the government immediately present before the Knesset all the secret documents. Moledet Chairman Rehav'am Ze'evi demands that Yitzhaq Rabin immediately announce that all the agreements signed with 'Arafat are invalid.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza stated that 'Arafat's remarks prove that the Israeli Government has taken the path of selling out even Jerusalem. The council says it will do everything it can to stop the deterioration.

Rabin on Dialogue With Syria, 'Arafat's Remarks

TA1705162194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 17 May 94

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, following their meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem; broadcast in progress—live]

[Excerpts] [Rabin, in English] ...dialogue, even though indirectly, hopefully that in the future it will be directly. There are lots of problems. We had a beginning. Still a long way to go. We appreciate very much the efforts of Secretary Christopher by traveling between Damascus and Israel, and his efforts to find ways to bring the parties closer in their positions and by that to facilitate real breakthrough. [passage omitted]

[Qol Yisra'el's political correspondent Shlomo Raz] Today we heard of remarks by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat regarding jihad and a commitment he received from Israel regarding Jerusalem. Would you care to comment, sir?

[Rabin] If he speaks of a letter issued following the Cairo agreement, then I wrote this letter on 8 May. It was presented before the Knesset. It makes no mention of Jerusalem. There was no other letter which I or any other Israeli wrote following the Cairo agreement which relates to Jerusalem. At the same time, the Document of Principles, signed on 13 September 1993 in Washington, states that there are issues that pertain to the permanent solution. It lists several issues, as examples, including Jerusalem. There will be issues that can be raised during the negotiations on the permanent solution.

As for to his remarks regarding jihad, if indeed he called for jihad, it is a grave violation of his commitment, made in the letter he had signed, which resulted in the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. If indeed he made that call, it would cast doubt on the continuation of the process between the Palestinians and ourselves. We cannot accept a violation of a commitment regarding the PLO undertaking not to be involved in violence and terror. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew, which joined the relay of the news conference at 1530 GMT, carries a reply by Rabin to a question on the answers Christopher brought from Damascus, in which he says: "It is not my duty to present the details. I believe that if the secretary decided to return to Damascus and to attempt to continue the dialogue in Syria, perhaps there is a glimpse of hope. I believe that exploiting every opportunity is the right thing to do. I believe the secretary is clear regarding our stands and the components required on our part in order to attain peace."]

Rabin on Autonomy, EU Links, Syrian Track

AU1705192694 Berlin DIE WELT in German 16 May 94 p 9

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Lothar Ruehl; place and date not given: ""The EU Discriminates Against Israel, We Cannot Tolerate That""]

[Text] [Ruehl] You concluded the Cairo interim agreement on partial Palestinian autonomy in Jericho and Gaza with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat under difficult conditions. Indeed, the signing seemed to be in doubt for a moment. Does that mean that there are still differences?

[Rabin] When we signed the 1993 Washington declaration, we knew that we were taking on a great many difficulties. However, we realized that we had to take

risks to achieve our goal: the end of 100 years of conflict between the Jewish and Arab populations of Palestine, between Israel and the Palestinians. Why? Because we are not concluding peace with another country, but with a population without a state. If we sign a peace treaty with an Arab neighbor, then we what we are concluding is a treaty based on a particular border, and we then go on to decide how that peace is to be implemented along the clear dividing line between us and our neighbors. That means: On our side of the peaceful border, we bear the responsibility, on the other side, the other country—each side bears a responsibility toward the other.

[Ruehl] As in the case of Sinai and Egypt?

[Rabin] Yes, as in the case of Egypt. It was not possible to achieve a permanent solution with the Palestinians in one move. The reality of this was accepted at the Madrid international conference as the basis for Israel's participation in negotiations with the neighboring countries that are in a state of war with us: Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. This means that the process consists of two phases: The first phase centers on the interim agreement on an internal settlement for the Palestinian people to occur over a transitional period and only after that, once the reality on the ground has changed, will we enter phase two, in which we will negotiate a solution. There is a web of ties linking both populations to each other. The situation in Gaza is much simpler, but is still complicated enough. The Israeli settlements there will remain.

[Ruehl] How many settlers are involved?

[Rabin] About 5,000 people, but their settlements are in the middle of territory that will come under Palestinian administration. These settlements are extra-territorial with regard to the jurisdiction of Palestinian local autonomy. There are a certain number of roads linking these settlements to Israel, and we will also have to ensure the security of those routes. Under these circumstances, organizing a peaceful coexistence between two populations who live intermingled with each in a confined area is a difficult task. That is why the agreement must be detailed enough to allow the Palestinians to run their affairs on the one hand while, at the same time, Israel can remain responsible for the Jewish settlements and for the security, including external security, of all the Israelis. I was in favor of the interim agreement settling as much as possible.

[Ruehl] But did that involve risks?

[Rabin] It would have been riskier to leave certain points unclarified and then to argue about them. It will also be difficult enough to cooperate on changing reality in the spirit of peaceful coexistence, but we will try. That is the acid test for the value of the agreement with the PLO. However, one must also take account of the fact that it was possible to conclude the negotiations with an accord, that is, the interim agreement, only one month after the Hebron tragedy. There was only a short delay. Even if one compares the date with the one that was set by the Washington declaration for the implementation of Gaza-Jericho autonomy, 13 April 1994, I see no reason why the implementation cannot be accomplished by the end of May.

[Ruehl] However, has the delay not placed a burden on the psychological situation surrounding the implementation of the autonomy agreement?

[Rabin] All the opponents of the agreement and, in addition to that, of peace between Israel and the Arabs have sought to use the delays to torpedo the peace process. It can, however, be seen that the detailed result facilitated rapid implementation and that is why the actual implementation of the agreement could overlap with the last stage of the negotiations. I assume that we now need no more than three to four weeks, if the Palestinians are ready to exercise policing duties shortly.

[Ruehl] But that does not mean that all the dangers have been eliminated.

[Rabin] On the Palestinian side, the strongest opposition to the treaty and peaceful coexistence with Israel primarily comes from extremist Islamic fundamentalists. They represent a great risk. Islamic terrorist groups murder Israelis not just to fight Israel, but also to try to bring about the collapse of the peace process. I do not dispute the fact that terrorist attacks in Israel reduce the level of support for the treaty. People in Israel have been writing letters of this kind to me: "I was in favor of a political solution of the kind that you have been pursuing, but what purpose is served by a agreement with the PLO if it fails to provide us with more security than before?" Of course, the Palestinian extremists know that, and that is why I say that the fulfillment of these security hopes on the part of the Israelis combined with the fulfillment of the Palestinians hopes regarding the running of their own affairs will determine whether or not the Gaza-Jericho agreement will create prospects for a political solution to peaceful coexistence. We said to our people that terrorism will be reduced, and the PLO has told the Palestinians that autonomy will result in effective self- administration, which will bring social and economic development. If these two goals are not achieved, then we will have a problem.

[Ruehl] When you talk about security for Israel, what do you mean by that?

[Rabin] For Israel, it means the personal security of its citizens. That is because the Palestinians do not pose a threat to Israel's existence.

[Ruehl] It is being said in Israel that Rabin's government has neglected its national security, because it has said that it is prepared to negotiate the return of Arab refugees from the 1967 war. Hundreds of thousands of Arabs would return and "flood" Israel. Is there not an indirect threat of this kind?

[Rabin] Of course not. If you read the Cairo agreement, you will see that it does not contain anything about refugees that was not already mentioned in the Camp David accord,

which former Likud chairman Begin agreed with Egypt, namely, a discussion about the refugee problem, irrespective of what territories are the subject of an autonomy agreement. The bulk of the refugee problem concerns those people who fled from their homes in 1948/49, from territories that have belonged to Israel since that time. We will then raise the issue of Jewish refugees from Arab states. The Washington declaration states that refugee issues will be raised in later negotiations on a definitive political solution. Another question is that of the 1967 "displaced persons," that is, those Palestinians in what was formerly west Jordanian territory who fled during the Six Day War. A committee composed of the four parties concerned—Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and the PLO—will start discussing these issues one month after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. We have not agreed on any figures or numbers in this respect. We have not assumed any obligations.

[Ruehl] Is this related to the presence of about 120,000 Israeli settlers in territories that have been occupied since 1967, to the question of land that belonged to Arabs until then?

[Rabin] The Washington declaration states that the settlers will remain during the interim period and that this issue will not be raised until negotiations take place on a permanent overall solution. That is in line with the 1978 Camp David accord. Nothing has changed in this respect. The refugee question, the question of the settlers, the border question, and the question of the status of Jerusalem are being kept for the last set of negotiations, which will also deal with the principles for respecting religious freedom and free access to all the holy sites for the various religions in Jerusalem.

[Ruehl] Since 1967, Israeli settlement policy has led to the appearance of large housing complexes where settlers are concentrated. Do these new settlements belong to the city of Jerusalem?

[Rabin] Until now, no Israeli Government has annexed territory under Israeli control and added it to the territory of the city of Jerusalem as set out in the 1967 law on the unity of the capital of Israel. The situation has not changed since the July 1967 law, which placed Jerusalem under the sovereignty of the Israeli state. Until the outcome of future negotiations on a permanent political solution, the remaining territory on the Jordanian West Bank, which was occupied during the 1967 war with Jordan will remain under Israeli military rule in accordance with international law. Until now, we have only concluded a treaty on internal Palestinian autonomy in the two areas of Jericho and Gaza. Jerusalem belongs to Israel, and it is and will remain the capital of Israel.

[Ruehl] Has the PLO the ability to effectively exercise political and administrative responsibility for the two areas and to make a success of autonomy?

[Rabin] The PLO must begin by gaining experience in administration. It will have an opportunity to do so in Gaza and Jericho, because all the wishes and demands of the Palestinian population in those areas will be directed to it. This involves political practice and the local administration, which has remained in Arab hands since 1967. In Gaza, we make a distinction between Israeli military rule, which will now come to an end, and civilian administration under military rule. The civilian administration is essentially Palestinian: Of the 6,000 employees, only 160 are Israelis. All heads of administrative agencies are Palestinians. All together, Israel employs 24,000 in the public service, and 18,000 in transportation and public utilities, and other facilities. Each month, $10 million is paid out of the Israeli state budget for salaries and wages. I put the following question to 'Arafat in Cairo: "What is going to happen to this expenditure? Who is going to pay when we leave?"

[Ruehl] What was the PLO chairman's answer to that?

[Rabin] He is relying on international donors, who have promised support for the development of autonomy. The Washington conference of prospective donors has envisaged a sum of about $2.2 billion spread over five years. The PLO will now have to assume responsibility for the 750,000 Palestinians in Gaza and the 20,000 or so in Jericho, and it will have to prove to the population that it can discharge its responsibility.

That is the criterion for measuring the success of autonomy. This means preventing terrorist attacks above all. The PLO must see to it that these two regions do not serve as springboards for terrorist attacks against Israel or against Israelis living in these areas.

[Ruehl] That is the key issue in the debate in Israel on the autonomy agreement and the withdrawal of Israeli troops, as well as in discussion of the protection of settlements in Gaza and the security of Israel itself.

[Rabin] There are risks, and there is a risk for the PLO in this respect, too. In future, the PLO must see to security in its own areas. Without security, there will be no further positive developments, including economic ones. It is in the vital interest of the Palestinians to foster security, just as it lies in Israel's interests for the Palestinian population to make economic progress and see the light at the end of the tunnel. That is the only way in which a lasting solution can be achieved. That is why we are interested in a strong PLO police force, financial support for autonomy, as well as investment by the international community in those areas.

[Ruehl] Will you reopen the border crossing-points for Palestinian workers and businessmen?

[Rabin] Yes, as long as they are not used to bring in terrorists. During the negotiations on the border, the security question must be solved in a way that is in line with Israeli security interests. Between 25 and 33 percent of GDP in Gaza and the West Bank, which have been administered by Israel since 1967, comes from Palestinians who work in Israel. This population has to cooperate with Israel when the borders are open in order to improve its standard of living.

[Ruehl] What kind of international cooperation can provide a framework for that?

[Rabin] We have to distinguish between several different aspects: financial support for the Palestinians, that is, aid totalling $2.2 billion; regional cooperation; and economic relations with Israel. Trade between the European Union [EU] and Israel was the main subject of the talks that I have held in five European countries, including Bonn. In 1993, the Israeli trade deficit with the former European Community amounted to $4.5 billion and to $7 billion if all of Western Europe and the EFTA countries are included. We are not asking for membership, but we cannoyt tolerate discrimination on the part of the EU.

[Ruehl] What do you mean by discriimination?

[Rabin] For example, Siemens can make a bid for Israeli power company investment projects, but Israeli firms cannot put in bids in Germany and the EU countries in the same way. Certain community rules prevent us from being given a chance to compete fairly. The value of our exports to the United States is almost the same as that of our exports to Europe. Trade with the United States is balanced, and in addition, we receive $3 billion of U.S. foreign aid each year. We are not asking for special terms or European support, but we do insist on fair "terms of trade" with a European market open to us. We cannot demand that the Israeli people pay the price for peace if we cannot simultaneously offer prospects for positive economic development within the framework of regional cooperation with our Arab neighbors and internationally.

[Ruehl] What is your view of the EU's intention of offering more funds to provide economic support for Palestinian autonomy?

[Rabin] We support it. We do not want European contributions, but a significant adjustment to the foreign trade deficit with Europe through appropriate agreements with the EU. Every billion dollars that is earned in exports means between 15,000 and 20,000 jobs in Israel. A peaceful settlement for the region must also bring economic advantages to Israel.

[Ruehl] What are the prospects like for extending peace to Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon?

[Rabin] Unfortunately, Lebanon is not prepared to take even one step unless it receives a green light from Damascus. Even Jordan is watching Damascus and waiting for a signal before it takes further steps, although we have already held negotiations. I cannot understand why the Jordanians see themselves as being dependent on the Syrians, but this is the case. As far as Syria is concerned, there is a great gulf between us. Syria has also condemned the agreement with the PLO and has not embarked on the path to peace with Israel, despite all the U.S. attempts at mediation. These U.S. efforts will continue, but I would not venture to make any predictions. However, we need a reliable peace, not just the consolidation of a truce.

[Ruehl] You have only had that kind of peace with Egypt.

[Rabin] President Sadat dispelled mistrust with his visit to Jerusalem. He went 90 percent of the way to convince the Israeli people that he was serious about peace. Begin only needed to go 10 percent of the way. Sadat was actively committed to peace. That is the difference between him and Al-Asad, and that is where the problems start. The questions that people in Israel ask are: We should believe him when he talks about peace, but can we believe him?

[Ruehl] Do you want Al-Asad to come to the Knesset in Jerusalem like Sadat?

[Rabin] I did not say that and I do not expect that. However, President Al-Asad does not have the right to demand the kind of conditions for peace of Israel that Sadat had claim to.

[Ruehl] You have indicated that your government would be prepared to discuss the return of the Golan Heights to Syria during negotiations on peace and if Syria were to respond appropriately.

[Rabin] I have actually said even more than that, namely, that I would be prepared to put the question of a significant withdrawal form the Golan Heights to the Israeli people in the form of a referendum, if we can draw up a sensible peace treaty with Syria.

[Ruehl] That is to say, mutual conditions for the demilitarization of the border and arms controls?

[Rabin] Yes, and in conjunction with normalization and a phased withdrawal over a given period of time. We must have a clear-cut border agreement and take account of the fact that in the north, vis-a-vis the Golan, Israel has no territory to withdraw into for defensive purposes and needs security.

Rabinovich: Syrian Replies 'Not Satisfactory'

TA1705201294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher may return to the Middle East in a month. This remark was made by Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz at the end of Christopher talks in Jerusalem. Ambassador Rabinovich noted that there is no breakthrough in the talks with the Syrians, and described them as a living process.

He further said that the clarifications received from the Syrians are not satisfactory, but they do contain some positive and real aspects. Rabinovich noted that Christopher will be leaving for Damascus tomorrow with additional Israeli questions regarding the Syrian replies and, according to him, we will know where the talks are headed in less than two days.

Commentary Criticizes Rabin's Syrian Policy

TA1305114694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 May 94 B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "A Mistaken Formula for Negotiations"]

[Text] Israel's formula for negotiations with Syria, as expounded by Rabin, "The depth of withdrawal will equal the depth of peace," is fundamentally and tactically flawed. It means that if al-Asad agrees to full peace, Israel will be committed to full withdrawal with all this entails. On the face of it this is fine, but in fact it poses obstacles on Israel's negotiating path.

Al-Asad claims he has already made his move when he publicly and privately declared in President Clinton's presence in Geneva that Syria has made a strategic decision to seek peace. Even though he did not enter the details, the Syrians claim he meant full peace. He is willing to discuss the stages leading to peace, but the basic decision has already been publicly stated. Al-Asad claims it is now Rabin's turn to reciprocate according to the stipulations of the Israeli formula. If full peace is intended, Rabin must complete the formula by stating: Full withdrawal. According to al-Asad it will be possible to discuss the security arrangements which the two sides require at a later stage. The Syrians claim, however, that Rabin has retracted and is unwilling to implement his formula.

I believe Israel's attitude should have been different. Israel should have presented a different formula: The depth of withdrawal will equal the depth of the security arrangements! According to this formula, for example, if al-Asad demands to limit the size of the demilitarized zone, then the depth of Israeli withdrawal will also be limited. If al-Asad is opposed, for example, to Israeli-manned warning stations on the Golan Heights, then the progress and stages of Israeli withdrawal will be prolonged by years. If al-Asad unequivocally rejects border modifications, Israel will demand to maintain the warning stations for a longer duration. The internal link between the depth of withdrawal and security arrangements will enable Israel to conduct the negotiations from a more convenient position. According to this formula peace is self-evident and above argument. The only argument will revolve around the security arrangements, a position which will be very easy to explain to the Israelis and the U.S. mediator. For many Israelis peace primarily means security for them and for Israel.

We are being informed by spokesmen and the media that Israel and Syria have already made significant progress during Christopher's recent visit. This progress in the negotiations with Syria should have been made during September, prior to the Oslo agreement. At that time it was concluded that the negotiations will be held at the highest level, between Rabin and al-Asad with Christopher as mediator. Now we have reached that stage again, and even though we are not talking here about direct negotiations between the two leaders, a higher level of contacts has been attained. However, this is not enough for completing the complicated negotiations on many sensitive issues between two countries which have been at war for dozens of years.

The gap between the sides is still profound and we must not harbor any illusions that the negotiations will be easy. It is more likely that we will witness serious crises before a breakthrough is made. Al-Asad and Rabin are known to be tough negotiators. Both of them want this reputation of toughness to be justified and vindicated. They have experience in negotiating with one another from 1974. During Christopher's last visit, the two sides entered the stage of preliminary clarifications, each seeking the other side's clarifications on the issues of normalization and the withdrawal stages. This stage was preceded by various declarations, with Rabin being the one who made the more significant move in his statement regarding Golan Heights settlements.

Al-Asad is still concentrating on the method of negotiations, namely on how to take the best advantage of the U.S. mediator. This is not a simple issue for al-Asad, and not only because Washington is suspicious of Syria (due to its support of terrorism and drug dealing) and is behaving unfairly toward it, as the Syrian president maintains. Al-Asad's associates say that the Syrian president believes that Washington is in Israel's pocket. Even if we are dealing here with an extremely supportive U.S. Administration, however, this does not mean that Israel is dictating things to Washington. Al-Asad, however, does not want to forfeit the possibility of a more intensive involvement of the U.S. mediator (he also has no choice). He correctly surmises that Washington is unlikely to exert heavy pressure on Israel to make more concessions and to disregard its vital interests.

Al-Asad will henceforth focus on demanding intensive negotiations in which Christopher will serve as a traveling mediator. Al-Asad has still not reached the stage in which he will ask the United States for any recompense. Even though he would have preferred mediators of the like of Kissinger and James Baker, he has to adjust to the present mediator, who strikes him as being too soft. Al-Asad expects to reach the stage in which President Clinton himself will intervene. His mere presence will exert pressure on Israel, which will not want to prevent the friendly President from scoring an achievement. As long as we have not reached this stage, al-Asad will not agree to hold a meeting with Rabin. Such a meeting will take place if Rabin suddenly decides to make a grand concession, or when the two meet with President Clinton at a very advanced stage of the negotiations.

IDF Completes Redeployment in Gaza Strip

TA1805045794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 May 94

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] completed its military redeployment in the Gaza Strip in the early hours of this morning. The head of Southern Command, Major General Matan Vilna'i, handed over control to the commander of Palestinian forces in the Strip. A formal hand-over ceremony will take place later today, although

at the request of settlers, the ceremony will now take place in Gaza City, and not in Gush Qatif, as originally planned. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 18 May adds: "Maj. Gen. Vilna'i said it is difficult to be optimistic about the Gaza Strip's future, because the central problem is no longer security, but rather the socioeconomic issue—the need to maintain an orderly life in the Gaza Strip."

[The report adds that "the IDF troops have completed their redeployment in the Qatif Bloc and around the Gaza Strip."]

The departing Israeli troops were forced to fire tear gas at Palestinian stone throwers, and Palestinian police also fired in the air to disperse thousands of residents who tried to break into the brigade headquarters as the Israeli troops departed.

About 2,000 Palestinian policemen have already been deployed in the Gaza Strip, from a total force of 7,000 which will eventually arrive. The outgoing commander of the IDF forces in the Gaza Strip, Brigadier General Doron Almog, said the transfer of bases and authority had gone smoothly and there is good coordination between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Civilian Powers in Gaza Strip Transferred

TA1805095294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 May 94 p 8

[Report by David Regev]

[Excerpts] As of 1400 yesterday, the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been running their own lives.

Thirty-four civilian offices were handed over to the Palestinians in a lengthy ceremony held at the Civil Administration's new offices in the Erez industrial zone, and the Israeli Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip officially became the civilian liaison center between Israel and the Palestinians.

The civilian Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip is headed by Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, Attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn, and Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun. The three will operate out of a new office set up near the Palestinian police building in Gaza. Forty-eight vehicles to be used by the Palestinian Authority arrived in the Gaza Strip yesterday from Egypt.

The first decisions passed by the Palestinian Authority were to declare Friday the official day of rest and the days of Id al-Adha a holiday. [passage omitted]

After an initial meeting between the sides, representatives of the Israeli offices and their Palestinian counterparts proceeded to sign the transfer of powers. Representatives of 34 offices—transportation, education, treasury, interior, health, and others—spent four long hours signing the letters of empowerment written in English.

The civilian powers were officially handed over to the Palestinians after Brigadier General Dov Gazit, head of the Civil Administration, and Palestinian representative Frayj al-Khayri signed the letters. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Briefed on PLO, Palestinian Authority

TA1705162794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The PLO leadership has ordered that guns held by Palestinians in Gaza be collected, but only few heeded this order. This was reported at the cabinet's weekly session today. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the ministers were also told that Fatah activists in the Gaza Strip have been criticizing the PLO leadership, claiming that it disregards them.

The cabinet was further told that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has been questioning the legitimacy of the PLO leadership and opposing the agreement. There is a fear that the economic deterioration in Gaza might be followed by a security deterioration.

The ministers were also told that the Palestinian Authority will take part in issuing working permits in Israel for Palestinian laborers.

Chief of Staff Baraq Tours 'Terrorist Attack' Site

TA1705134594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Touring the site of this morning's terrorist attack near Bet Hagay, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said he foresees a continuation of terror attacks in Judaea, Samaria, and the Qatif bloc. The chief of staff called on all people licensed to carry weapons to do so, and to help the security forces and intelligence personnel protect thousands of vehicles driving through Judaea and Samaria. He added that roadblocks can only prevent terror attacks in their immediate vicinity and that the task of providing additional protection for the population falls to the Israeli Army and the citizens themselves.

Demonstrators Protest Government Peace Policy

TA1805051094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] There were demonstrations last night in the wake of the terrorist attack in Hebron and in protest against the government's peace policy. In Jerusalem's Paris Square opposite the prime minister's residence, five demonstrators were arrested by police when they tried to break through barricades.

On the Jerusalem-Jericho road, police dispersed demonstrators from the nearby settlement of Kfar Adumim, home of the Hebron attack victims. According to Qol Yisra'el's reporter on the scene, the demonstrators not only blocked the highway, but violently confronted Arab drivers.

Husayn-al-Asad Summit Reportedly Set for 19 May

JN1805064794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 May 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will meet in Damascus Thursday [19 May] where the two leaders are expected to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, official sources said.

The King was quoted as saying that there will be a "Jordanian-Syrian summit in Damascus on Thursday," in his meeting with representatives of blocs and committees of the Lower House of Parliament Monday.

His announcement, according to parliamentary sources, came after the King briefed the deputies on Jordan's "great satisfaction with the level of Jordanian-Syrian coordination" over the Middle East peace process and on the bilateral level.

The King was also quoted as saying that his satisfaction with Syrian coordination did not extend to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) with which, he said, "coordination is much below the expected standard."

But despite this, the King also underscored Jordan's insistence that the "Palestinians plan for themselves and take their own decisions."

Jordan, the King said, will continue to extend support to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The King, according to the sources, underlined the Kingdom's continued commitment to the "comprehensiveness of the solution of the Middle East problem" and that Jordan will not enter the "race" on the different tracks to sign agreements before fully negotiating the points leading up to that agreement.

"The King said Jordan will not sign a peace agreement before fully neogtiating all the details leading up to that agreement," one parliamentary source said.

The King told the deputies Jordan had always maintained its position that no peace can be comprehensive "without Arab coordination."

That is why Jordan, the King was quoted as telling the deputies, "had always put nationalism above patriotism."

The King's message was that the Kingdom will continue to deal with developments in the peace process "from a nationalist point of view rather than from its own narrow interests," as one deputy put it.

On another front, deputies interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES said, the King's public statement that Jordan was committed to maintain its democratisation process was in response to complaints voiced by the deputies over how the House was portrayed in the official media, particularly television.

According to parliamentary sources, Irbid Deputy 'Abd al-Razzaa Tubayshat raised the issue of how TV coverage could instill in people's mind "the message that Parliament was being criticised for the way it handles its duties."

Parliamentary sources said that the King resonded by dispelling any criticism of the House and reiterating the Kingdom's commitment to democratisation "because it is linked to the Arab people's dignity, freedom and right to participation in building their present and making their future."

The official news agency, Petra, reported Monday that the King called on the parliamentarians to continue their distinguished work in the fields of legislation and monitoring government performance, pointing to the importance of having well-defined relations among the executive, legislative and judicial authorities.

King Receives Israeli Arabs, Stresses Peace

JN1705174894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the sons of Palestine would always remain in the heart and that they are worthy of appreciation and respect, especially those who adhere to their land and remain steadfast on it. We have no ambition, aim, or purpose other than the return of right to its people and owners on their national soil and the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace, which future generations can accept, safeguard, and defend in an honorable and secure life.

His majesty added: We in Jordan are one family of various origins and are cohesive in the homeland of the free people. Man is valued by the sacrifices he has offered and will offer in the future by confronting the challenges and carrying out the national duty.

His majesty also stressed that Jerusalem and the holy shrines would remain in our conscience and that we will continue to work so that they will be for us all with God's sovereignty prevailing and so that these holy lands become a source of enlightenment, as they used to be in the past.

His majesty's statements came when he received at the Royal Hashemite Court today a delegation from the Arabs of Nazareth, Akko, Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev, who came to Jordan to extend condolences to his majesty and the honorable Hashemite family on the death of Queen Mother Zayn al-Sharaf, beseeching Almighty God to have mercy on her soul, grant her paradise, and inspire patience to his majesty and the honorable Hashemite family.

Al-Hirawi, al-Hariri Meeting Ends Cabinet Crisis

NC1705162294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Today's midday three-hour meeting between the two leaders, Ilyas al-Hirawi and Rafiq al-Hariri, at the presidential palace, has ended the governmental crisis that lasted one week. The meeting also ended talk of a reshuffle or change in government. This meeting took place after Prime Minister al-Hariri informed the cabinet yesterday during its extraordinary session that there will be no cabinet reshuffle.

Defense Minister Rejects Assimilation of SLA

NC1805102894 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 9 May 94 p 10

[Text] In a statement to AL-SHIRA', National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul reiterated his rejection of a Washington-backed Israeli request that Lebanon assimilate the so-called South Lebanese Army [SLA] and integrate its elements in the Lebanese Army as a condition of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territories.

The issue is an internal Lebanese affair and no country can tell us what we should do, the minister said. Those who dealt with Israel cannot be equated with other Lebanese militias that were disbanded and assimilated. The former are traitors and must stand trial in Lebanese courts, Dallul stated.

Terrorism Charge on Eve of U.S. Visit Questioned

PM1705103394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 May 94 p 4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus: "Syria Strongly Criticizes Inclusion of Its Name in the Terrorism List"]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due in Damascus this evening and will go from there to Jerusalem in an attempt to bridge the Syrian and Israeli views on the question of a peace agreement.

On the eve of Christopher's arrival, Syria yesterday vehemently criticized the U.S. State Department's statement on terrorism and the inclusion of Syria's name in that statement. It saw it as incomprehensible and unjustified conduct on the eve of the U.S. official's visit to the region and the start of a new round of talks on peace. [passage omitted]

Referring to the U.S. statement on terrorism, responsible Syrian sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that it was a violation of diplomatic and political tradition, unless Washington was no longer in control of its own decisions regarding its own purely national interests.

They added that that statement defied logic and was arbitrary in its classification, based on a warped and fanatical political premise which could only be Israeli. The sources added that anyone who examined the timing of the statement would feel that Israel was not uninvolved in it, or rather that it co-wrote or was even its sole author because it wanted to create a political problem for the U.S. Administration—which is what it achieved.

The sources said that the seriousness of the statement lay in the fact that it was issued on the eve of Christopher's visit to the region to resume his tour and dialogues on peace, with Damascus as a main or rather the main party in any dialogue or breakthrough in the peace process. The sources wondered how the United States could hold a dialogue with "terrorist" Syria, the pivot and the main party in the process. Was it generally logical to talk to a terrorist about peace? Did that not represent a dilemma for the United States, and was the U.S. Administration not being openly blackmailed into itself openly blackmailing Syria for concessions in the peace process in Israel's favor?

The Syrian press also strongly attacked the U.S. State Department's statement on terrorism. [passage omitted]

Warren Christopher Arrives in Damascus

JN1805085494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his delegation arrived in Damascus at 1100 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' as well as the director of the American Desk at the Foreign Ministry, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus received him at Damascus International Airport.

Al-Asad, Christopher Hold Talks

JN1805103694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 May 94

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, at the People's Palace at 1130 today. The session was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dennis Ross, U.S. overall coordinator of the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad, 'Abd-al-Majid Discuss Arab Issues

JN1705172194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in the People's Palace at 1330 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting. The Talks dealt with Arab conditions and the Arab League's role at the present juncture. Discussion also touched on the regrettable situation in Yemen and the Middle East peace process.

The Arab League secretary general briefed the president on the results of the 26th round of the joint Arab action higher committee which was held in Damascus and the decisions and recommendations it adopted on joint Arab action in the next phase.

Al-Asad, King Husayn Discuss Ties Over Phone

JN1705184994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call this afternoon from His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

During the conversation, they discussed bilateral issues.

Daily Rejects Israeli Presence in Golan

JN1805081394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH writes about the visit to Syria by the chief of U.S. diplomacy, noting the U.S. secretary's impressions of the visit, particularly Syria's commitment to the peace process and its honest concern to give it the required momentum to reach the desired and definite objective.

AL-THAWRAH says the Syrian trend and endeavor toward reaching a solution and settlement have always been governed by firm principles. The paper adds: The red lines, which nobody can bypass, remained the essence over which there is no bargaining. These red

lines—which are based on the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council and which underscore the full implementation of these resolutions on all fronts to guarantee the restoration of all Arab rights—have always been the point of reference and the basis for a just and honorable solution and have always been appreciated by the world.

AL-THAWRAH notes a matter realized by everybody, namely, following the signing of the Oslo and Cairo self-rule agreements with the PLO, Israel has escalated its aggressiveness and terrorism inside and outside the occupied territory. Furthermore, Israel did not hesitate to bring into its military arsenals sophisticated and internationally banned offensive weapons. This has exposed Israel's intentions toward peace and revealed the intentions of its rulers toward making gains at the expense of Arab rights.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Syria, which accepted peace as a strategic option, cannot accept any Israeli presence on any inch of the Golan. Syria also adheres to a comprehensive solution on all tracks, insists on the principle of a comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory in exchange for a complete peace, and categorically rejects partial solutions.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH stresses the need for undoing the difficult Israeli knot, straightening and rectifying the course of the Tel Aviv rulers, and binding them to the Madrid point of reference and to implementing international legitimacy's resolutions. This is the task of the international community inasmuch as it is the task and responsibility of the U.S. sponsor for the sake of peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN says the sought peace should be based on international legitimacy's resolutions, adding that since the beginning of the peace process Syria has reiterated its commitment to a just and comprehensive peace. TISHRIN notes that Syria is very much concerned about peace and that it will spare no efforts to activate the peace process and to help it achieve its objectives.

TISHRIN adds that the whole world is a witness to Syria's credibility, its sound course toward the peace process, and its full commitment to the requirements of this process. The paper adds that since the beginning Syria has been aware of the fact the path of peace does not pass at all through partial solutions, phased settlements, or individual deals. Syria believes that peace can only be achieved through ending the entire occupation and ushering the region into an age of stability and security.

TISHRIN stresses that the occupation, over all the years of Arab-Israeli conflict, has been the source of chaos and tension and the cause of wars, tragedies, and cycles of violence. Syria, which supports a just and comprehensive peace and adheres to ending the occupation, bases its stand on the resolutions of international legitimacy which provide for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the inadmissibility of Israeli forces' occupation of these territories. Syria's objective is to reach the peace that guarantees restoration of Arab lands and full rights.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: For this, Syria responded to all international political efforts, particularly the American efforts. It always welcomed the role of the U.S. sponsor as a full partner and fair broker in the peace process who works to implement the U.S. initiative based on the return of land in exchange for peace. Through this agreement, Syria opened the road of peace, worked to achieve it on just bases, and reiterated its continuous readiness to give a momentum to the peace process. Syria hopes U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour will produce positive results to salvage the peace process.

Daily Predicts New Government After 'Id al-Adha

JN1805092294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 May 94 p 32

[Text] AL-DUSTUR has learned from informed sources in the Syrian capital that President Hafiz al-Asad will issue a decree forming a new Syrian Government under Major General Hikmat al-Shihabi, the present chief of staff, who will replace Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, after the blessed 'Id al-Adha holiday [which begins 21 May].

Afghanistan

Yerganik Pass Under Rabbani's Control

LD1305175294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The strategic area of Yerganik is completely in the hand of the forces of the Islamic Army, and the mojahedin are defending it confidently. Quoting a responsible security source, a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports: After their consecutive defeats in the northern provinces of the country, the militia recently mounted a failed assault on the Yerganik Pass. As a result of the bravery of the Islamic Army units and the mojahedin, the attack was repelled and heavy loss of life and damage was inflicted on the aggressors. The report adds: The militia began their attack at a time when Islamic Army units had confronted the enemy with humiliating defeats in various parts of Baghlan Province and conquered their positions one after another.

Sixteen Killed in Kabul Artillery Attack

LD1505174594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] In a reciprocal artillery attack by the mojahedin and the Islamic Army forces in Kabul, 16 militia were killed and 17 others were injured, including Mir Yaqub, a commander of Golboddin's militia. According to the reports from the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY, the artillery attack took place two nights ago in response to the missile attacks carried out by the militia's of Golboddin-Dostam, in which the militia's had targeted the residential areas of Kabul city. In the course of these attacks, in addition to the aforementioned losses, two rocket launchers, a DShKS, two PK machine-guns, and several militia strongholds were destroyed in the southeast of Kabul.

Recently, according to another report, 15 members of Dostam's militia sold their weapons in Charasiab in Kabul and fled to Pakistan via Kandahari bridge located in Mohammad Aqha District, Logar Province. [passage omitted]

Militias Launch 'All-Round Attack' in Konduz

Army Said To Foil Assaults

LD1505171294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] The militia's of Dostam-Golboddin have embarked on an all-round attack on Chardara District, Konduz Province, in order to compensate for their defeats in the capital and in the northern regions during the last few days. The attacks of the murderer militia's, accompanied by heavy air bombardment, on the residential areas of Konduz and Chardara District, caused loss of life and financial damage to people. The militia's also resorted to plundering the people's properties, too.

The Islamic Army and Mojahedin embarked on a successful military operation this morning at 0500 in order to foil the attacks by militia's of criminal Golboddin and infidel Dostam. As a result of these operations, the coordinated militia's of Golboddin-Dostam were cleared from the district of Chardara. In the course of these operations more than 100 militia were killed and more than 100 militia were arrested. Among militia that were killed are General Ahmad and General 'Abdol Samad. General Nabi, General Ahmad Ankhoyi, General Saleh, and General 'Abdol Wahed, four other members of the murdering militia's of Golboddin-Dostam were arrested by mojahedin. During these operations more than 300 types of light and heavy weapons were either destroyed or captured.

Further on Military Operations

LD1605182894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Further details have been reported on the military operations carried out by the Islamic Army. Quoting an official source in the Afghan Defense Ministry, the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent reports Golboddin's militias in the areas around Konduz Province, along with Dostam's militias, resorted to an unsuccessful offensive, supported by heavy air bombardment and missiles attack, to disturb peace and security in the Konduz Province surroundings. The militias caused trouble to the people, plundered properties, and resorted to actions against our religion and traditions. The Islamic Army forces resorted to a retaliatory attack against the militias and embarked on military operations in the district of Chardara. During these operations, the militias were pushed back towards Tashghorghan from the areas of Konduz Province. The militias were cleared from Chardara District and the surroundings of Konduz. As a result of these operations, more than 100 militias of Golboddin-Dostam were killed, more than 120 arrested, and a large number injured. The enemy lost 700 pieces of light and heavy weapons, and two of their tanks were burned down. One BM-21 system and two ZK-1's also were destroyed.

Anti-Rabbani Faction Claims Gains

NC1805060194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0530 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] The Coordination Council of the faction opposing Borhanoddin Rabbani has said that it controls the four valleys in Konduz Province. According to Coordination Council sources, heavy clashes took place between the council forces and Rabbani's forces on Monday night. Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami party has said that Supervisory Council forces have regained the four valleys from the opposition.

Dostam's Forces Assisted by 'Foreign Country'

LD1705171694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] A report from Mazar-e Sharif says that a foreign country provides military supplies to Dostam's militias. Recently, 20 passenger aircraft delivered Kalashnikov ammunition and RPG-type missiles to Mazar-e Sharif airport. Sources close to militias say that Dostam-Golboddin's militias faced a shortages of arms and ammunition in the recent fighting, and that is why they are supplied from abroad. At the present, mojahedin of Balkh Province have the airport of Mazar-e Sharif under the pressure by heavy weapons in order to prevent the airport being used as a means for the continuation of foreigners' military interference.

Also, the security officials say that a system that was guiding the aircraft was fired at by the air forces of the Islamic Army in the heights of Pul-e Khomri and was destroyed. The destruction of this system fully paralyzes the militias air power. Recently, militias had used training aircraft instead of fighter planes, and with the destruction of this system they have now been deprived of this as well.

Kabul Police Stations To Be Reactivated

LD1405200794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] For the ensuring of law and order in the city of Kabul, police stations will be reactivated within the security zones of Kabul police. This point was expressed by Lieutenant General Qara Beg Ezedyar, acting minister of internal affairs, to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY and he added: Because under the provisions of law, police duties are to ensure law and order, the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs recently decided to replace the officials who have failed to discharge their duties in a merited way with faithful and professional people to restore law and order very soon in Kabul.

With the reactivation of police stations, all irresponsible armed men will be expelled from the city. For this purpose, the commission of the heads of the Ministry of Internal Affairs departments has been assigned to assess the work and activities of security officials every day in Kabul, and to make due decision for the alleviation of people's problems. Similarly, henceforward uniformed police officials will be installed in Kabul and the movement of irresponsible armed men will be prevented. On top of this, the Ministry of Internal Affairs have worked out such serious plans, that with its implementation law and order situation will further be strengthened.

Rabbani Regrets Afghan Mercenaries in Karabakh

LD1605175694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpts] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has replied to a message sent by Levon Ter-Petrosyan, president of the Republic of Armenia, in the following terms:

Mr. Levon Ter-Petrosyan, president of the Republic of Armenia: I have received Your Excellency's message in which you mentioned the participation of a number of irresponsible Afghans in the war between your country and the republic of Azerbaijan over the disputed area of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Afghan side understands the feelings and concerns of the leadership and the people of Armenia.

Your Excellency, president of the Republic of Armenia: The Islamic Government of Afghanistan has experienced the bitter taste of occupation and interference by the old Soviet Union. For two years this country has been dealing with the negative impact of foreign occupation and various interference. Afghans are peace-loving people and do not have any interest in interfering in other countries' affairs. The presence of a number of Afghans participating in the war between your country and Azerbiajan has no connection with the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the war-torn Afghan nation; and those who have taken part as mercenary soldiers do not have any jehadi background and have not been in the ranks of Afghanistan's mojahedin.

Mr. President, it is with regret that I have to inform you and through you the Armenian nation that a number of warmongering groups have, on the instructions of foreigners, acted to promote political and social instability in Afghanistan and have employed a number of Afghan workers for financial purposes to seek financial sources to support the militias associated with the old Soviet Union, and have dragged them to take part in the war between your country and Azerbaijan. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Your Excellency, the presence of a number of mercenaries and dealers in the name of Afghanistan's mojahedin in the war that you have mentioned cannot spoil the relations between Afghanistan and Armenia. The Afghan side is striving to halt as soon as possible these inhuman dealings of a number of rebels, whose profits have been and will be used for activities against national security and political stability in Afghanistan. Taking this opportunity, I wish health, long life, and success to your excellency, and the welfare of Armenian people.

[Signed] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Visit of Burmese Trade Minister Reported

Arrives To Sign Trade Accord

BK1405162394 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Trade between Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] will start soon after signing the border trade agreement between the two countries. The visiting Myanmar minister for trade, Lieutenant General Tun Kyi, said this on his arrival in Dhaka today from Chittagong. Talking to newsmen, he said the agreement will be signed on Wednesday. The Myanmar trade minister and his Bangladesh counterpart, Shamsul Islam, will sign it. The Myanmar minister said border trade can help (?accelerate) the development of the regions of the two countries across their borders.

Replying to a question, Mr. Kyi said his government welcomed the Myanmar refugees back home.

Meets With Prime Minister Zia

BK1505090494 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said the existing relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] will be strengthened by increasing trade between the two countries. She was talking to the visiting Myanmar minister for trade, Lieutenant General Tun Kyi, when he met the prime minister in Dhaka yesterday. Begum Zia said there is a good scope for joint ventures in various fields, including fishing, [words indistinct] and wood products. She said the existing close cultural ties between the peoples of the two countries can further be strengthened. Myanmar trade minister expressed his country's interest in trade and said it is ready to take back the Rohingya refugees still in Bangladesh and rehabilitate them so that they can start new life [words indistinct]. Mr. Tun Kyi will sign an agreement with his Bangladeshi counterpart on Wednesday [18 May] for starting border trade between the two countries. Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam and others were present on the occasion.

Prime Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia

BK1705012094 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1245 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia left Dhaka for Saudi Arabia this afternoon to perform the holy hajj pilgrimage. She will stay in Saudi Arabia as the royal guest of the king.

Article Views 'Brutal Activities' of Insurgents

BK1305150194 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 7 May 94 p 1

[Article by Masud Nizami]

[Text] Despite the liberal and flexible stand which the Bangladesh Government has taken to bring about a solution to the Chittagong Hill Tracts [CHTs] problem, the leaders of the CHTs and the bloodthirsty Shanti Bahini [tribal insurgents] are treating this government policy as weakness and have intensified their violent and brutal activities. On April 10, a half-day strike was observed in the three districts of CHTs under the auspices of the Parbattya Gano Parishad [organization of Bengali settlers in CHTs] in protest against the kidnapping of several Bengali-speaking people from Naniarchar by the Shanti Bahini. The Shanti Bahini also kidnapped one person from Manikchhari last December and another person from Kutubchhari in January. The kidnapping and killing of Bengalees by the Shanti Bahini continues.

Perhaps, the members of the so-called Shanti Bahini and the Pahari Chhatra Parishad [Hill Students Council] who are followers of Upendra Lal Chakma and Santu Larma [both leaders of the tribal insurgents] are carrying on these nefarious activities to obstruct the repatriation of tribal refugees to CHTs from India's Tripura State. Though the Pahari Chhatra Parishad has appealed to the tribal population of CHTs not to celebrate the Biju [religious festival of the tribals], the tribals have not responded. The Shanti Bahini wanted to prove to the world that religious minorities are being repressed in Bangladesh by preventing the observance of this festival. In the past, the Shanti Bahini had made several false propaganda in this regard both at home and abroad.

At present, the Shanti Bahini has set up several bases inside the CHTs. They have this opportunity as the security forces have been withdrawn from the border areas. Apart from Tripura, the Shanti Bahini has recently opened new camps in Haryana [a state of India] for training newly-recruited youths. These terrorist elements have the opportunity to organize themselves due to the general amnesty declared by the Bangladesh Government and the closure of several army camps in the region. It is learnt that arrangements are being made to withdraw more army camps from the CHTs. This is a matter of grave concern. After visiting the CHTs, the governor of Tripura, Romesh Bhandari, said he believed that the situation in the region is very favorable for repatriation. Despite this, the Shanti Bahini which is responsible for killing over 25,000 people in the CHTs is making efforts to foil the repatriation of the second batch of tribal refugees from Tripura to the CHTs. The Shanti Bahini has become desperate to launch massive destruction in the region to foil the peace initiative under any pretext. It may be mentioned that at least 25 percent of the women of Bangipara [village of CHTs] have become widows due to the activities of the Shanti Bahini.

After the peace talks held last November, the killer Shanti Bahini launched a series of attacks and killed a large number of the members of the security forces, the police, the Bangladesh Rifles [paramilitary force], and Bengalees living in the region. So far, it has not been possible to record all their activities. Reliable sources,

however, said such incidents exceed 200. They said the aim of the Shanti Bahini is to foil the peace process and complicate the situation. The reason is that the leaders of the Shanti Bahini and the Jana Sanghati Samity [political wing of Shanti Bahini] are gradually becoming frustrated with India.

Recently, the Shanti Bahini has established links with the secessionist forces in seven Indian states including Tripura, Mizoram, Assam, Nagaland, and Meghalaya. Due to this, the Shanti Bahini has become a problem for India. According to observers, Indian leaders are therefore in favor of driving out the Shanti Bahini from their country. They add that owing to this the Shanti Bahini has become desperate to let loose anarchy. The people of the CHTs have become fed up with the large-scale extortion of the Shanti Bahini. Several protest rallies against the activities of the Shanti Bahini have been held in different parts of the region.

Severe discontent prevails among the Bengalees living in the three districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts. They are fighting against the demand of the tribals to curb their rights and convert them to second-class citizens. The quota for the representation of the Bengalees in the district councils of the CHTs is very small. The opportunity for the education of their children is also very limited. In contrast, there are special quotas in educational institutions for the tribals. Bengalees do not have the right to purchase land in the CHTs. On the other hand, the government has surrendered to the demand of the Shanti Bahini and is forcibly evicting thousands of Bengalees from their homes. This is being widely criticized. A massive rally was held last November in Rangamati town under the auspices of the Parbattya Gano Parishad which clearly stated that the people of the CHTs will not accept any talks with the murderous Shanti Bahini. They added that if any talks are necessary, then it should be held with the Parbattya Gano Parishad, an organization of peace-loving people from the three districts of the CHTs. In this regard, they also handed over a memorandum to the government. In this memorandum, the Bengalees have demanded the abolition of special tribal quotas and the introduction of hill quotas.

On April 10, a half-day strike was observed peacefully in the three districts of the CHTs—Rangamati, Bandarban, and Khagrachhari—at the call of the Parbattya Gano Parishad, which demanded that the Bengalees kidnapped by the Shanti Bahini be released. Addressing a rally held on the occasion, the Gano Parishad leaders declared that a solution to the CHTs problem is only possible through the implementation of the seven-point and 18-point proposals they have given. They added that the repression of the Bengalees in the CHTs, which is also a Bangladesh territory, will not be tolerated.

A rumor is being heard saying that the government has recently decided to hand over to the district councils of the CHTs the responsibility of dealing with land matters in the region. If this is done, then this will be equal to giving the Bengalees a death blow. It is learnt that the Bengalees are preparing to resist this move. The Jatiyatabadi Landless Organization, which has about 10,000 landless families living in Khagrachhari, are planning to lay siege to the local district council office to press the implementation of their five-point demands.

The chairman of the Parbattya Gano Parishad, Jalaluddin Ahmed, and the secretary general, Moniruzzaman Monir, in a joint statement criticized the governor of Tripura, Romesh Bhandari, for saying that he is unaware that secessionist training is being given to the misled Chakma [tribals of CHTs] youths at the (Maini) Mission Academy and other secret places in Agartala. They alleged that the administration in Chittagong Hill Tracts is being compelled to work in accordance with the prescription of the local leftists and the so-called international human rights organizations. They added that the MP from Khagrachhari, Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, and Upendra Lal Chakma are playing a game centering on the Chakma refugee issue. The Parbattya Gano Parishad has evidence that these two people have links with the Shanti Bahini. Hence, they cannot be friends of Bangladesh. The leaders of the parishad in their statement has called on the government to call a round-table conference at the national level to resist the conspiracy and terrorism going on in the CHTs.

India Trying To 'Capture' Military Market

BK1705015894 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 6 May 94 p 1

[Text] Recent developments in Bangladesh's foreign relations have raised several questions in people's minds. These questions are not being widely discussed due to the prevailing political crisis in the country. The visit of the governor of the Tripura state of India, Romesh Bhandari, to Dhaka in the third week of April and the subsequent six-day long visit of the Chief of Staff of the Indian Armed Forces, General Bipin Chandra Joshi, to Bangladesh has had an impact on the politics of the country. Earlier, a review was made regarding the tour of Bhandari to Bangladesh, but one aspect of his visit was not discussed. Bhandari made this visit as a special envoy of New Delhi. It is needless to say that some changes have been observed in New Delhi's policy towards Dhaka, but these changes are in the interest of India. During this visit, talks were held with Bhandari regarding the sharing of the waters of the Ganges River. Bangladesh has identified this water sharing issue as the main impediment towards the solution of other problems with India. It is understood that India is now giving a fresh thought on the water sharing issue. Apart from this, India wants to improve its ties with Bangladesh to maintain its dominance in South Asia. Let us see how India wants to achieve this objective. For instance, India has softened its stand on the water sharing issue after Bangladesh started taking the necessary preparations to raise this matter at the United Nations. At this stage it is necessary that Bangladesh should be more cautious. Asafuddowla—the official—who strongly advocated the

cause of raising this issue at the United Nations has now deviated from his earlier stand. Does this indicate that there is a possibility of resolving this water sharing issue with India through bilateral means? Asafuddowla is not acceptable to the Indians. Did the government make a different evaluation of him with India? People have a question in this regard.

India does not want to restrict the forging of better ties only to the spheres of water sharing and market economy. It also wants to expand ties in the area of regional security. Many people think that this was one of the objectives behind the visit of General Joshi to Bangladesh. Official sources however described it as a routine visit. Actually, this visit had an important aim.

It is understood that India wants to capture Bangladesh's military market. Though India has always opposed the military development of Bangladesh, they now want to "dump" the military equipment built in their country on Bangladesh. It is understood that during his visit, General Joshi not only talked about military cooperation but also mentioned the export of military hardware to Bangladesh. At present, Bangladesh receives a large chunk of its military equipment from China in the form of grants. Later, these grants are waived. If new spare parts are needed then Bangladesh imports them from China. India has said that China is providing old equipment to Bangladesh, but it [India] will provide her with new equipment. Hence, Bangladesh will not need to import any spare parts.

Earlier, India had proposed to Bangladesh the holding of joint military and naval exercises. Bangladesh has not yet conveyed its decision to India. Many people believe that if joint military exercises are held then India will be able to develop contacts in the Bangladesh Army. Others say that if joint exercises are held then Bangladesh will be able to acquaint herself with the techniques of the Indian Army and also become aware of their motives. Joint military exercises between India and Bangladesh will create a new wave in regional politics. It is believed that this may have a negative impact.

At present, Bangladesh is in need of an Armed Personnel Carrier, APC. This carrier is used in different parts of the world by the UN peacekeeping forces. The soldiers of Bangladesh are not very familiar with these carriers. To ensure Bangladesh's future participation in UN peacekeeping operations, its army should learn how to use these carriers. At present, India wants to supply these APC's to Bangladesh but a political decision has to be taken in Bangladesh whether or not to bring these from India.

General Joshi held talks on this issue during his visit to Dhaka. India is also concerned about the tribal insurgency in the northeastern parts of that country, which is being aided by Pakistan. India believes that the Inter Services Intelligence of Pakistan is abetting these rebellions and it [New Delhi] is seeking the assistance of Bangladesh to curb these activities. India also believes that these terrorists are being trained in Bangladesh, but the latter has repeatedly refuted this allegation. Despite this, India is not willing to accept the denial of Bangladesh. A report published by the Indian Army in April 1993 alleged that Bangladesh is supporting the rebels in the northeastern states of India. India believes that the tribal insurgents are using Bangladeshi soil to carry on their activities in India. It has been learnt from reliable sources that these issues came up for discussion during the visit of General Joshi.

During the visit of General Joshi to Bangladesh, Indian planes violated Bangladeshi airspace and India massed its troops along the border of Lalmonirhat District while Bangladesh was conducting excavation work along two of its rivers—the Feni River and the Dharala River. The foreign secretary of Bangladesh once said that the government is observing the situation along the border. He also questioned newsmen about the veracity of newspaper reports published in this connection. However, after this the Home Ministry lodged a strong protest with India centering the tension along the border. It is now known that Bangladesh apprised the visiting Indian Army chief about these incidents. People want to know about these issues. It is known to all that India had always opposed Bangladesh for moving in an independent direction.

Naval Ship Acquired From UK Commissioned

BK1505104394 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The commissioning ceremony of the Bangladesh Naval Ship [BNS] Shaheed Ruhul Amin was held at BNS Isa Khan base at Chittagong port this morning. Addressing the ceremony, President Abdur Rahman Biswas said the government has taken initiatives to build up a strong navy for safeguarding sovereignty of the country. President Biswas disclosed that a plan for setting up a marine research institute and procuring a survey vessel is now under active consideration of the government. He further said there is possibility of adding more imported vessels soon to Bangladesh naval fleet to protect marine resources within the maritime boundary of the country. Our Chittagong representative says the ship procured from the United Kingdom having most modern surveillance equipment will be used for safeguarding about 44,000 miles of coastal area and maritime boundary of Bangladesh.

Iran

Khamene'i Issues Statement to Pilgrims

LD1705155994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 17 May 94

[Statement issued by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to the Hajj congregation; date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The sacred time for hajj is upon us with its eternal resources for the Islamic ummah. Thanks be to God for this unending gift and this ever-vital spring, by the grace of which Muslims of the world can benefit and reap rewards according to their own efforts and wisdom.

The extent and variety of the interests and issues which the divine hand, with its knowledge and wisdom, has fitted into the duty of hajj is of a magnitude which cannot be found in any other Islamic precept, ranging from spiritual presence and thought and the self- discovery of the Islamic individual in finding himself alone with God, and the cleansing of the heart from the dirt of sin and negligence, to the sense felt by the individual who finds himself among a crowd and the sense of unity felt by each Muslim with the entire Islamic ummah, and the sense of strength arising from the greatness of the gathering together of Muslims and to the effort made by every individual to attain a cure from spiritual wounds and diseases, that is, from sins, to curiosity and the will to understand and heal the profound scars and pains affecting the body of the ummah, to fellow-feelings with all Muslim nations, that is, the members of that body, are all contained in the hajj and its various rites and rituals.

The Koran describes the actions carried out during the hajj as rituals. This means that they are not merely individual actions aimed at fulfilling an individual duty; they are, rather, gestures intended to raise the level of insight and wisdom of the human beings who perform them. Underlying all these gestures is monotheism, that is, the rejection of all powers that, in some way, take possession of the bodies and souls of human beings and the establishment of the absolute rule of God over one's entire existence. In other words, the rule of an Islamic system and Islamic regulations over the individual and social lives of Muslims.

Included in the Koranic verses referring to the hajj, the Koran calls on everyone to disavow the idols worshipped by the infidels: But shun the abomination of idols, and shun the word that is false. [preceding Koranic verse read in Arabic] These idols may in some instances refer to the idols which were placed around the Ka'ba; but, undoubtedly, today and at all times, they also refer to those powers that have unjustly taken charge of the lives of humanity and, today, refer clearest of all to the power of arrogance and the satanic power of the United States and the power of Western culture and the corruption and decadance which are inflicted on Islamic countries and nations.

Of course, the pseudo-theologians affiliated to and in the pay of the governments-made-of-straw will insist that, no, those idols refer merely to Manat, Ellat, and Hubal, those very same idols that were crushed and annihilated under the foot of the victorious soldiers of the Great Prophet, peace be upon him and his scion, on the day when Mecca was captured. The intention of these monarchical-clergy is to empty the hajj of all political content to suit their own taste, ignorant of the fact that this very millions- strong gathering of Muslims that has come together from every corner of the world in one place at one time itself contains the richest political content.

This is a display put on by the Islamic ummah in which all differences of race, language, geography and history are set aside and in which everyone joins together to form a whole. In order to prevent Muslims from understanding the significance of this great unity and in order to prevent individuals from gaining a sense of collectivity, these pseudo-clergymen and their masters have used every kind of lie, deceit, and falsehood and will continue to do so in order to make it as difficult as possible for the people who call for unity and invite the pilgrims to disavow the ring leaders of infidelity.

Islamic Iran wished to do nothing more than the minimum required by the hajj and that was to issue a call to unity to all Muslims, to invite all nations to learn the truth about one another and to ask people to express their hatred and revulsion of the ring leaders of infidelity and corruption. Anyone who stands against these valuable and lofty aims is speaking unjustly, regardless of what he says. As the Koran says: Shun the word that is false.

The word that is false is the unjust statements made by those who speak ill of the Islamic Republic, because the Islamic Republic rejects the rule of the Zionist government over occupied Palestine and considers as valueless the compromises made with the usurpers by a few corrupt and isolated individuals. It condemns the master-like interventions of the United States in Arabic countries. It exposes the ugliness of the treachery of some Islamic leaders against their own Muslim nations for the pleasure of the United States and the Zionists. It calls on Muslims to recognize their own tremendous strength which no superpower can withstand today. It deems Islamic insight and the rules of Shari'ah as capable of ruling Islamic countries. It considers the imposed culture of the West, the manifestation of which lies in nakedness, drunkeness, and faithlessness, to be harmful for Islamic countries, and, in a word, insists on obedience to the Koran and Islam.

Today, any Islamic country that states these things openly and adopts these same positions, that is, rejects usurper Israel, rejects the bullying interventions of the United States, rejects drunkeness, decadence, sexual corruption, and the mingling together of men and women, rejects the treachery of those who compromise with Israel, calls on Muslims to unite again and resist the superpowers, implements the rulings of Islam in government, the economy, politics, and so on, will be on the receiving end of exactly the same kind of propaganda which is spread throughout the world against Islamic Iran and exactly the kind of insults and falsehoods which are directed against the leaders of this country.

And the news agencies of the arrogant powers and Zionism and the radios of the United States and Britain and their allies will speak in exactly the same insulting way, with exactly the same kind of nonsense, about them. This is what was meant by: the word that is false, which was put alongside and on the same level as infidelity by God. How amazing that preachers and rulers in some corners of the world imitate these anti-Islamic and religiously forbidden actions of the propagandists of the United States and the Zionists.

Of course, the total submission to tyrannical rulers that, unfortunately, is the destiny of clergymen in some Islamic countries should not really be a source of amazement.

Today, the hajj, God's great blessing, is before you. Every single Muslim and every member of the Islamic ummah must benefit from it and as has been commanded [passage omitted], benefit from it to the advantage of their world and their religion. Today, the religion of Muslims is threatened by the enemy's cultural onslaught and the spread of corruption, injustice, faithlessness, and decadance among Islamic societies; something that is happening on the initiative of anti-Islamic powers and with the help of their propaganda and media, and the world of Muslims is threatened by the ever-increasing hegemony of arrogance over the affairs of Islamic countries and by the ever-increasing pressure on and hostility against any government or group that wishes to direct the minds of people toward the true rule of Islam and toward the independence and strength of Muslim nations.

And, of course, at the head of this all-embracing attack against Islam is the Great Satan, that is, the Government of the United States. Any clear-sighted eye can see the hand and will of that anti-Islamic government behind all the misfortunes which are inflicted on Islam and Muslims.

In occupied Palestine, the main reason behind the strong- headedness and the boldness of the Zionists and the most important factor behind the compromise made by most Arab governments before the endless demands of Israel is the United States. Without the backing of the United States, the reactionary governments of the region, which are well known for their submissiveness to the United States, would not have turned into the defenders of the usurping government and into the supposed defenders of those Palestinians who are against compromise.

And those who, according to their Islamic duties, must stand against Israel would not don the clothes of those who stand against the opponents of Israel. And, without the unconditional support of the United States, the usurping government would not have been able to bring about a great tragedy such as the massacre [in Hebron] at the noble shrine of Abraham, peace be upon him, and to avoid suffering all the consequences of such an action.

A similar situation applies to the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The historical massacre of the people of Gorazde and Sarajevo by the Serbs, which can truly be seen as ranking among the most shameful deeds committed by humanity in our times, is a huge crime, the responsibility for which must be borne by the powers who dominate the world and, more than any other power, by the United States.

If it were not for their interference and their policies, the Muslims of Bosnia would not have been deprived of receiving assistance in the form of weapons in the face of well-equipped and well-armed Serbs, and a defenceless and besieged nation would not have been sacrificed to blood thirsty, shameless and encouraged aggressors.

What is painful is that the United States and NATO, after laying the groundwork in this heartless way for the massacre of Bosnian Muslims, after using the United Nations and its secretary general totally for their own ends, after displaying signs of their own pleasure at the killing of Muslims at the hands of the Serbs, and after several weeks passed since the savage attack of the aggressors against Muslim women, children, the old, and the young and the death of thousands of innocent people and the inflicting of suffering on such a scale on the people of the city of Gorazde, after all that to call a halt to the torture and describe that as humanitarianism, love of peace and neutrality.

Is it the case that, when an executioner stops torturing a person after hours and days, he can claim to be humane and use as evidence of his humanity the fact that he has stopped torturing his victim?

This apparently neutral, but in practice aggressive, stand against Muslims, is seen in the United states and its European collaborators, such as Britain, in every incident in which innocent Muslims constitute one side, and are subjected to their enemies' oppressive behavior and pressure. Among the examples are the sorrowful events of Kashmir and the intense suffering of the Muslims in Nagorno-Karabakh and Tajikistan.

Wherever a government or a gathering chant slogans of Islam, and strive for the establishment of the rule of Islam, they become the inevitable targets of America's abuse, slander, ruthlessness, and malicious hostility. Clear examples have been shown toward the Sudanese Government, Algeria's Islamic movement, Lebanon's Hizballah, Hamas, Palestine's Islamic Jihad, Muslims of Egypt, and so on. In all these cases, the agents of global arrogance and above all the United States have been displaying fanatical behavior similar to that of tribal communities. The case of the United States' malicious hostilities, accompanied by wrath and injustice against Islamic Iran—although in most cases ineffective thanks to the divine will and blessing—is in itself a separate issue, of which many in the world are aware.

Now, do the great Islamic ummah, its leaders and politicians, intellectuals and religious authorities have no responsibilities with regard to this tragic plight of

Muslims throughout the world? Do these people, who on the basis of the words spoken by the great prophet of Islam, may God's blessing be upon him and his scion, who said: He who shows no interest in the affairs of Muslims is no Muslim [preceding Koranic verse in Arabic]—know of an occasion more suitable than the hajj to the House of God and of a time more suitable than the days of the revelations for displaying this important obligation. It was indeed not without reason that the exalted prophet, may God's blessing be upon him and his scion, chose the hajj period for promulgating the disavowal of infidels, which is a totally political activity within the framework of the very first Islamic government's general policy. He proclaimed a divine and Koranic command: And an announcement from God and His apostle, to the people assembled on the day of that great pilgrimage. That God and His apostle, dissolve treaty obligations with the pagans. If then, you repent, it would be best for you, but if you turn away, know you that you cannot frustrate god. And proclaim a grievous penalty to those who reject faith. [preceding Koranic verse in Arabic]

Indeed, the hajj is a religious duty during which and by way of which the most important political difficulties of the Islamic ummah can be resolved. For that reason, the hajj is a political-religious duty, the peculiarities of which have made this very apparent. Those who deny this and propagandize against it are in effect against the resolution of those difficulties. In brief, the hajj is a religious duty which concerns the ummah, the unity, the rule of Muslims, the improvement of the individual and the community, and in a nutshell, this world and the hereafter.

Those who do not want to accept the political connotations of hajj, in effect want to keep Islam away from politics and separate religion from politics. The issue of separating religion from politics is that very point which the enemies of Islam have been raising for decades.

Today, because a government based on the sacred religion of Islam has been set up in Iran, and the ever-increasing enthusiasm for the formation of Islamic governments has engulfed the entire Islamic world, the arrogants are raising that issue of separating religion from politics with more vigor and haste. Wherever they see the preparations for the realization of this aim of forming Islamic governments, they enter the scene with force and aggression to fight against it.

The rule of Islam requires resistance to the intervention of the arrogants in Islamic countries. It also warrants the need to keep away those who are dependent on these powers, and the slaves of the satan of selfish desires and arrogance, from ruling these countries. It is therefore natural that arrogance and those who depend on it, and the satans and their followers should be angry about the rule of Islam. By the same token, those who believe in God and the Day of Judgement should welcome it and strive toward it.

Now that a number of people from all over the world have had the fortune of perceiving [as heard] the period of revelations and the hajj to the House of God, I in all sincerity and modesty beseech the almighty to accept their pilgrimage and to endow them and the entire Muslim ummah with pilgrimage benefits.

I make the following recommendations to the brothers and sisters:

One: Seize this opportunity for self-making, repentance, and pleading to God and store spiritual assets to last you for the rest of your life.

Two: Ask Almighty God to eliminate great obstacles along the path of the Muslims; and keep repeating this request again and again in every prayer and hymns.

Three: Seize every opportunity to become acquainted with Muslims from other countries. Learn a lesson from the positive and negative points of their daily life. Non-Iranian Muslims should particularly hear the truth and circumstances of Islamic Iran from the mouths of their Iranian brothers, so that they discover for themselves whether the global propaganda against Iran is right or wrong. Today and always, they should strive to learn the instructions of the late imam, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul, on Muslim issues. They should become better and more closely familiar with that illustrious and pious personality of Islam's history.

Four: All the accurate information and knowledge you have acquired on the situation of the Islamic ummah or about your own country, pass it on to the Muslims from other countries.

Five: During conversations with your Muslim brothers, from every corner of the Islamic world, bear in mind the plight of the Islamic ummah and view the solidarity of the Islamic world. Take your thoughts and others' thoughts beyond the confinement of geographical borders, racial, ideological, factional, and other such divides. Think only of Islam and Muslims.

Six: Keep reminding your conversation partners to think of the God-given might of more than one billion Muslims and dozens of Islamic countries with so much material and spiritual wealth and with a huge heritage of culture, civilization, faith, and ethics.

Seven: Break the myth of the West's invincible might and particularly that of the United States, which global arrogance has always tried to magnify several times above reality and has tried to instill into the Muslims' minds. Remind yourselves and others that the Communist might, which on the surface seemed insurmountable, collapsed in our region and in front of this same generation's eyes. Nothing is left of that might now. The existing over-inflated powers, including the might of the United States, may be destroyed and annihilated just as easily.

Eight: Keep reminding the religious ulema and intellectuals of the Muslim countries of their immense burden of responsibility.

Nine: Remind the heads of Islamic states of their obligation to the Islamic ummah, which is to create unity among Muslims, to keep away from global powers, to incline and rely on their own nations, and to create healthy relations between the people and the rulers. Such a reminder by you is a duty in accordance with the Koranic verse which says: The imams of the Muslims need advising. [preceding verse in Arabic] Afterwards ask Almighty God to rectify this matter.

Ten: Remember always that when we say the heads of state are responsible, it does not mean the individual members of a nation have no responsibility. Rather, they can play a decisive role in the realization of all these great goals. It is hoped that with divine help and kind considerations of the Imam of the Era, may our souls be sacrificed for him and may God hasten his lofty advent, the esteemed pilgrims' hajj rituals will be accepted by God.

I beseech God to bestow his blessings and vast mercy on the entire Islamic ummah and every individual among the Muslims. May God's peace be on all pious slaves.

[Signed] 'Ali al-Hoseyni al-Khamene'i

[Dated] 4 Holy Dhi al-Hijjah 1414, corresponding to 25 of Ordibehesht, 1373 [15 May 1994]

Reaction to Canceled Hajj Rally Reported

Foreign Ministry Condemns Saudis

LD1705171794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has termed the Saudi authorities' prevention of the performance of the Disavowal of Polytheists ceremony as breach of promise and condemned it.

Referring to the Oman agreement between the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia concerning the marking of the Day of the Disavowal of Polytheists, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Not only is disregarding that agreement breaking a promise by the Saudi authorities; preventing the Disavowal of Polytheists, while Muslims are being subjected to oppression and injustice by infidels and polytheists, has no political-ideological justification either.

Expressing deep regret about the preventive measures of the Saudi authorities, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said such actions are like raising objections and imposing restrictions on the freedom of action of pilgrims of the House of God to perform the political-ideological hajj rituals and an effort to render the Abrahamite hajj meaningless.

Radio Assails 'Provocative' Action

LD1705200994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 17 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i has consented to the cancellation of the holding of the antipathy rally in response to a letter sent to the leader by his representative and the head of the Iranian pilgrims Mr. Reyshahri. It is worth reminding that the Saudi security officials, by creating obstructions and by stationing forces in combat gear and surrounding the headquarters of the representative of the leader in the holy city of Mecca, are the main factors in the adoption of the far-sighted decision by the leader of the Islamic revolution. This is so because the recent instructions of the leader of the Islamic revolution in connection with the holding of the hajj ceremony included the point that the Saudi officials should not be allowed to use any pretext for breaking the sanctity of the holy House of God.

As has been cited in Mr. Reyshahri's telegram this year too, the devoted and vigilant pilgrims from Iran and other countries were ready to raise the secret banner of deliverance from the idolaters and arrogance in the land of revelation by taking inspiration from guidelines of the late Imam Khomeyni, peace be upon him. But the Saudi military and security forces in a provocative and irresponsible manner, and three days ahead of the antipathy rallies surrounded the headquarters of the representative of the leader and began controlling all movements of the pilgrims, thus preventing the divine obligation from being carried out.

It is surprising as well as shocking that the Muslims are banned from holding the antipathy rally and announcing deliverance from the pagans near the House of God. The Saudi forces prevented the announcement of deliverance from polytheism and arrogance headed by the U.S. and Israel by controlling the movement of pilgrims around the headquarters of the leader's representative and even prevented the headquarter's vehicles from leaving or entering the area.

The oppressed silence of the world Muslims in the House of God is far more effective than any cry and stronger than any storm. The message of the Islamic revolution has now crossed the geographical boundaries of Iran and has reawakened the Muslims across the globe, giving them self-confidence. Last but not least, the hajj rituals and rallies such as the antipathy rally, on the one hand, provide the world Muslims to become aware of their problems from close quarters and on the other, by announcing their indignation over the Zionist domination, raise the outcry of their common sufferings. Obviously unless these sufferings and pains are treated properly to provide a basic cure, any cry can only serve to be a temporary solution.

Riot Police Guard Saudi Embassy

NC1805112894 Paris AFP in English 1056 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 18 (AFP)—More than 50 armed riot police were deployed around the Saudi embassy in Tehran on Wednesday [18 May] amid a row between the two countries over a ban on an anti-US rally in Mecca, an AFP correspondent reported.

A police officer at the scene told AFP that the move was taken at the request of Saudi authorities to protect the embassy amid mounting tension between the two countries.

The police took up positions around the embassy and set up road blocks on streets leading to the building.

Iran called off an anti-US and anti-Israel demonstration, planned to be held by Iranian pilgrims in Mecca on Tuesday, under the threat of force from the Saudis.

Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission Meets

Eighth Session Opens in Tehran

LD1605101794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The eighth session of the Iran-Pakistan joint economic commission began working in Tehran today in order to investigate the possibility of increasing communication and trade, expanding border trade, and creating joint commercial, technical, and manufacturing companies.

Our correspondent reports that, during this session Akbar Torkan, the roads and transport minister and head of the Iranian delegation, referring to the potential for cooperation between the two countries, stressed the need for cooperation, including improvement of the two countries' rail networks, in order to link with the European railway network, the expansion of air routes, telecommunication and fiber optics, the creation of joint commercial, technical, engineering, and manufacturing companies, in particular utilizing the two countries' industries to build oil refineries, to set up joint border markets, and to reduce the tariff on commercial and industrial goods by the Pakistani Government.

Wassim Ja'fari, adviser to Pakistan's prime minister and head of the Pakistani delegation, referring to the projects currently under implementation, stressed the need for increasing joint investment.

The expert committees of the eighth session of the Iran-Pakistan joint economic commission will start work from this afternoon. Last year Iran and Pakistan exchanged $64,305,000 of non-oil goods. The value of Iranian export to Pakistan was $31,801,000, and the value of imports from Pakistan to Iran was $32,504,000.

President Stresses Economic Ties

LD1705190894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Mr. Vasim Jaffery, the Pakistani minister of state for economic affairs [name and title as heard] and head of the two countries' joint committee.

At the meeting, the president emphasized the expansion of economic cooperation between the two countries in line with diplomatic ties. He said: Although there are grounds for cooperation between Asian countries, it is not at the expected level. Perhaps the tendency to cooperate with the West and lack of complete confidence and trust in the natural facilities and potentials in the region is one of the factors preventing its realization.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the necessity for the two countries' joint committee to become more active to present to the world a suitable example of regional cooperation.

At the meeting, Jaffery said: Implementing the agreements reached between Iran and Pakistan, particularly those reached during Mrs. Benazir Bhutto's visit, are always stressed by the Pakistani Government.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed

LD1805110194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] This morning, at the conclusion of the eighth session of the Iran-Pakistan joint economic commission, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries. In this memorandum of understanding, signed by Road and Transport Minister Torkan and Wassim Ja'fari, the economic adviser to the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, agreement is reached on the joint construction of oil refinery [number not specified] and a gas pipeline to Pakistan, reconstruction of flood-damaged bridges in Pakistan, and construction of 1,300 km of roads in that country.

The memorandum also stressed the joint construction of the Kerman to Zahedan and Mirjaveh railway lines and improvement of the lines from Quetta to Taftan—by utilizing the two countries' financial and technical resources—establishment of round-trip air routes between Zahedan and Quetta and between Lahore and Mashhad, and also the addition of a second railway service from Zahedan to Quetta.

The Iranian side, in this memorandum, has declared readiness to accept transit and trans-shipment of goods from Iranian ports and dredging of Pakistani ports and building of new ports at competitive international rates.

Other agreements reached in this memorandum include the provision of bank credits and customs facilities in order to speed up commercial services, transport of

goods and passengers between Iran and Pakistan, and setting up of exclusive commodity exhibitions with the right to sell in each other's territory.

Iran-Pakistan Border Commission Views Antidrug Fight

LD1405214094 Tehran IRNA in English 2102 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Zahedan (Sistan-Baluchestan), May 14, IRNA—The 8th Iran-Pakistan joint border commission opened here Saturday [14 May] to explore problems and difficulties of the two countries' border provinces in countering bandits and drug smugglers.

Deputy chief minister of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province who is heading the delegation, Shirdel, praised Iran's law enforcement personnel for their decisive campaign against drug dealers.

Referring to Islamabad's attempts to eradicate narcotics and drug trafficking, he stressed that Pakistan does not produce any type of narcotics, and that these drugs are being mass produced in neighbouring Afghanistan and smuggled into his country.

According to him Pakistan is also serious in its fight against drug dealers despite its lack of proper facilities and equipment to deal with them on the long border it shares with Afghanistan.

Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province borders Pakistan's Baluchestan Province.

Head of the Iranian delegation, Vajihollah Aqa-Taqi who is in charge of security-political affairs at the governor-general's office of Sistan-Baluchestan Province, said Iran will spare no efforts in promotion of economic links between the neighbouring provinces.

He assured that Iran will seriously deal with all activities against Pakistan at the joint borders and will never let border be a base for subversion inside Pakistan.

He stressed that Iran expects reciprocal treatment from Pakistan and particularly officials in charge of Baluchistan Province in this regard.

Outlining Iran's success in the drug campaign, Aqa-Taqi announced that the law enforcement personnels have seized over 10 tons of narcotics in the border regions during the first month of the Iranian calendar Farvardin which ended on April 20. Iran-Pakistan joint border commission which is being held bi- annually will last 3 days.

Envoy to India Protests Treatment During Kashmir Visit

NC1505173194 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 May 94 p 16

[Commentary from the Foreign Politics Desk: "Which Reality?!"]

[Text] Some time ago, an 11-member delegation of diplomats in New Delhi travelled to Kashmir Province after extensive publicity by the Indians.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in New Delhi, who was one of the members of this delegation, criticized the obstructionist behavior of the Indian officials and their attempts to prevent the main objective of the trip, which was to assess the true situation in Kashmir.

In view of this stance, the Indian External Affairs Ministry summoned the Iranian ambassador and informed him that "his allegations were not in conformity with the facts."

We wish to draw the attention of the Indian authorities to two important points:

1. The Indian authorities for many years have opposed the visit by Iranian journalists to the crisis-ridden Kashmir region. Now that a diplomatic delegation has gone to that region, the Indian Government is trying to cover up the pressure it is exerting on Kashmiri Muslims by resorting to fallacious propaganda and "disseminating news without any truth," despite the fact that every day there are alarming reports of disastrous occurrences in Kashmir.

2. It appears that the Indians did not expect anyone to react to the actions of the Indian Armed Forces in Kashmir.

Why should the free statements of a diplomat regarding Kashmir upset the Indian authorities? If the Indians are apprehensive about the revelations of their atrocities in Kashmir, they should seek a path other than intimidation.

Their allegation that "the Iranian ambassador was the only one who complained" does not change anything, as the Indian External Affairs Ministry has not refuted his allegations.

In any case, the Indian officials should know that one cannot cover up facts for a prolonged period of time and that the only path is to officially grant rights to the people of Kashmir.

South African Political Delegation To Visit

LD1505174394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] A high ranking political delegation from South Africa will visit Iran with the aim of expanding relations. On his return from South Africa, Mr. Hashemi, our country's first deputy foreign minister, referring to his meeting with Nelson Mandela, the South African elected president and to the fact that the talks carried out were successful, said the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in South Africa was opened during this visit and it is hoped that with the eradication of apartheid, the

political-economic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the South Affica will expand.

Daily Sees Bright Future for South African Trade

LD1605114694 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—The daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL here Monday [16 May] wrote that ever since the establishment of the Islamic republic in Iran, there has been a great emphasis on the importance and the desirability of ties with Third World countries specially Africa.

Referring to volume of Iran's exports to Africa in 1992, the editorial noted that Tehran broke off diplomatic ties with Pretoria in the wake of the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran.

Following the normalization of ties with post-apartheid South Africa, the drive to re-establish trade relations with that country has gained momentum, the paper remarked.

Commenting on the recent trip of Iranian Oil Ministry delegation to South Africa, the daily said that while Iran has always put an emphasis on trade ties with Africa, South Africa can provide a good platform both in terms of trade with it and with other African countries.

In view of its great human and material resources, it looks like South Africa would be the most promising of all African countries to establish trade ties with, the article noted adding that the first step in this regard can be the resumption of oil exports to that country.

However, in addition to being a good oil market for Iran, South Africa can also provide a promising market for Iran's non-oil export products because of their competitive prices, it added.

In view of its advancement in industry and technology, South Africa has also what it takes to meet some of Iran's needs in these areas, the editorial concluded.

Ministry Condemns Austrian Award for Rushdie

LD1605204894 Tehran IRNA in English 2022 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi Monday condemned the Austrian Government's granting of an award to sentenced apostate Salman Rushdie and interpreted it as background for more disrespect to divine religions.

The Austrian minister of education and arts recently gave an award to the writer of the highly sacrilegious book 'The Satanic Verses'.

The Iranian official said this measure is condemned not only by the Islamic republic but also by all world Muslims and followers of other divine religions.

Rushdie sentenced to death for his crime is in hiding in Britain since 1989 with world Muslims determined to bring him to justice.

The apostate who has hurt the feelings of the world's over one billion Muslims, is being backed by certain Western countries who from time to time reward him for his misdeed, in scant respect of Muslim sentiments.

Commentary Views UK's Arms-to-Iraq Inquiry

LD1305204894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 13 May 94

[Station commentary: "Secret Deal Between Iraq and Britain"]

[Text] The committee to survey Britain's secret arms deal with Iraq, the Scott Committee, concluded, following its formal investigation of British Government officials. Although the result of investigation has not been completely revealed, the same information which have [word indistinct] proved that the Conservative British government is involved in a big secret deal arms with Iraq in blatant violation of law.

The attention of Judge Scott has been specially drawn to the question as to why investigation in the trial of Matrix Churchill company managers was stopped in November 1992 under the government pressure. This was why the involvement of British intelligence service, known as ME6 [as heard] had been somehow clear. As the results of Judge Scott investigations show ME6 organization had direct connection with Mr. Paul Henderson, an accused manager, in the use of gathering of informations from Iraq and that regime's arms activities. Therefore, according to Scott committee's conclusion, the British spying and intelligence agency could not have been uninformed of secret arms deal between Britain and Iraq. Furthermore, Judge Scott, in his investigations, has come to this conclusion that the officials of the Conservative British government, by plying with words and making use of various terms and interpretations, have been trying to justify their act and the breach of law.

Nevertheless, one cannot have a clear picture of the British Government's extensive support for Iraq in the war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran until the investigations of Judge Scott are published by the end of the current year. The Conservative British government's hostility to the Islamic Republic of Iran was to the extend that the British Government had agreed to be involved in illegal and secret arms deal with Iraq. Judge Scott's investigations, which includes gathering of 200,000 documents and proofs during 400 work hours, are checked by the British Government to prevent disclosure of secret documents showing the government's inner corruption. But since the Scott Committee is popular among people and there is a high demand for the disclosure of truth, Judge Scott finds himself, as a neutral judge, bound to respect national interest and disclosure of truths.

For this reason at least part of the Conservative British government's inner corruptions and the hypocritical image of its statesmen are expected to be put to the public judgement with the release of parts of the truth.

Editorial Assails UK for Hosting Dissidents

NC1605201494 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 May 94 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Britain—A Base for Terrorism!"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The British Government has agreed to the establishment of networks to guide the terroristic operations of the Monafeqin [hypocrites—pejorative term for Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] on its soil. While revealing this, a source in the British House of Commons stressed that London has issued a permit for the Monafeqin to direct their terroristic operations from British soil after Paris had refused their request. Thus, Britain has been transformed into a base for the Monafeqin terrorists, who will henceforth receive their orders directly from London and will embark on crimes and killings. [passage omitted]

The oppressed Kurds of Iraq have not forgotten that at the height of their struggle against the Baghdad regime, the Monafeqin terrorists entered the fray suddenly on the side of the "executioner of Baghdad" and began massacring and torturing the revolutionaries. However, the Monafeqin did not reap any benefits from all this mercenary service and crime on behalf of Saddam. They incurred the ire of the Kurdish combatants and a short while later the Monafeqin's installations were the targets of the fury and vengeance of the combatant Kurds and their stay in Iraq was terminated.

Now that these Monafeqin have entered into London's service and have committed themselves to the British Intelligence organization, there is a strong likelihood that they will become the targets of the hatred and anger of the IRA and the IRA's revenge squads will be the nemesis of the remnant elements of the Monafeqin.

It is interesting to note that the mischief-mongering British seem helpless before the Irish combatants and will try to use the mercenary Monafeqin as their sandbags in their efforts to crush the IRA. If all the lackey Monafeqin are killed in the process, the mischief-mongering British will have lost nothing. [passage omitted]

Britain should seriously reply to these questions: Is it prepared to accept the consequences of this ill-fated investment in the Monafeqin? Does it realize the consequences of such a foolish policy and does it take direct responsibility for its latest decisions? There is a strong possibility that the explosion on Sa'di Avenue in Tehran recently, which resulted in human and material losses, was actually directed by Britain.

It is not yet clear how London will face the unpleasant consequences of its decisions and whether it comprehends what the reaction to this unwise step will be. It is difficult to predict what the reaction of the families of those martyred by the crimes of the Monafeqin will be when they hear of this.

It is essential for the Islamic Republic of Iran to stress the seriousness of the matter to London; and before London's malice provokes a severe and irrevocable reaction, Iran should ask the trouble-making British to rectify their deliberate mistakes and apologize to the Iranian nation. Otherwise Britain will have to take responsibility for its indiscreet decisions.

Oil Minister Explores Cooperation With Kazakhstan

LD1505130494 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Kazakh Minister of Energy and Fuel resources Kadyr Baykenov and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i here Sunday discussed in detail construction of an lubricant factory in Kazakhstan and laying of pipelines for transfer of Kazakh crude oil by Iranian experts.

The two sides also favoured long-term cooperation between Tehran and Almaty in the economic and oil fields, which, they believed, could serve as a "strong" base for flourishment of their industry and economy.

They also expressed keenness on expansion and deepening of bilateral relations and reviewed formerly reached agreements between the two countries' officials on bilateral cooperation in the areas of oil and natural gas.

Baykenov accompanies Kazakh Premier Sergey Tereshchenko in his Iran visit.

New Gas Deposits Sufficient for 250 Years

LD1305135094 Tehran IRNA in English 1207 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., May 13, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that the capacity of the discovered gas deposits of the country would be enough for 250 years.

Noting that gas is considered as the best fuel for the country, the president said piped gas had been supplied to 240 cities and towns throughout the country, and that all other places should indeed be provided with piped gas.

Elsewhere the president said Iran is considered as a steel exporter today, and predicted that steel production would reach five million tons in the current calendar year.

Iran is treading the path of self-reliance in many areas including aluminium, copper, and petrochemical industries, he added.

Bandar-e Anzali Declared Free Trade Zone

LD1605170594 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Bandar-e Anzali on the Caspian Sea has been declared a free trade zone.

The announcement, according to the Persian evening daily KAYHAN TODAY, was made by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last night, after his inspection tour of the port city in Gilan Province.

The president on Sunday at the end of his four-day visit of Gilan, referred to the capabilities of Bandar-e Anzali and stated that a bright future awaits the port and the region.

Bandar-e Anzali with its extensive facilities is expected to serve as a key link in Iran's trade connections with Caspian Sea states which include Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan.

The announcement brings to five the number of free trade zones in Iran.

The other four zones are the Qeshm and Kish Islands off the southern Iranian coast in the Persian Gulf, Chahbahar port on the Gulf of Oman in Sistan-Baluchestan Province and Sirjan in the mineral rich interior of Kerman Province in the southeast.

Iranian Radio, TV Plan Worldwide Satellite Broadcasts

NC1505094394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 May 94 p 2

[From the News Desk]

[Text] The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran has a plan in hand to transmit programs worldwide by using satellite technology.

According to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's public relations division, the deputy director general of the organization's external services, Dr. Shahidi, announced the above during a meeting with Kuwait University professors and a group of press and political affairs officials from that country.

At that meeting, Dr. Shahidi stressed the need for cooperation among Islamic countries in producing programs suitable to the culture, inclinations, and interests of Muslim nations, and in transmitting them via satellite networks.

Regarding the objectives of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Arabic-language programs, Dr. Shahidi said: On these programs we have messages for all the Muslims of the world, that is, the message of unity and of strengthening the historical, religious, and cultural bonds among the Muslims. The best means of doing this is by identifying them better through the radio and television programs.

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